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Whose side is the Russian army on? page 16



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Plus: Magnus Linklater and Anatole Kaletsky page 20

Doubt over loyalty of armed forces

Russia 'faces worse crisis than in 1917'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S economic crisis took a dangerous political turn yesterday when Aleksandr Lebed, the gruff presidential hopeful, told President Clinton that the country faced a greater threat than in 1917 on the eve of the Bolshevik Revolution.

For the first time since the crisis began, commentators were talking more about the loyalty of the military rather than the rouble and the stock market. The immediate issue is the conflict between President Yeltsin and the Duma over his nomination of Viktor Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister.

But in a warning which was echoed by other politicians and in press reports, General Lebed, the Governor of the Krasnoyarsk region in Siberia, told Mr Clinton that the economic collapse and political stalemate in Russia was now catastrophic.

In 1917 Russia was fighting the First World War and there were six million men under arms. "The situation is worse than in 1917. Now we have huge stockpiles of poorly guarded nuclear weapons," said the former paratroop general, who was among opposition leaders meeting Mr Clinton on the final day of his visit. "The mood is such that we must do something to get out of this situation. And if Yeltsin falls, that will mean Clinton's fall as well."

Mr Clinton told the opposition leaders at the last meeting on his agenda in Russia

before flying to Ireland: "I hope you will be able to bridge your differences to agree first on a programme to stabilise the current situation." Mr Clinton assured Mr Yeltsin he could count on fresh aid if Russia shows it will complete its free-market reforms.

Although prone to alarmist rhetoric, General Lebed's description of the explosive situation in Russia was reflected on the front page of the normally sober Kommersant Daily.

Under a headline "Zyug-

INSIDE

Lebed is right: the old is dying and the new has not yet been born

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anov ready for war" it said that the communist leader had decided to fight his power struggle with the Kremlin to the end and was ready if necessary to use force.

Boris Berezovsky, Russia's most influential businessman whose shadowy role is blamed for precipitating the crisis, also made a dire prediction. "A riot is something nobody wants," he told a Moscow radio station. "It will sweep away everyone - all the political forces. Nobody will

care about the opposition, which is also impotent now, or individual leaders. People whose names we do not know will come to power."

While there is no sign today of the crisis turning violent, the most obvious scenario would be a repeat of the bloody scenes in October 1993, when Mr Yeltsin used tanks to blast his opponents in parliament. The Duma, the lower house of parliament, is once again dominated by communist and nationalist opposition parties, and yesterday it intensified its open campaign to oust the Kremlin leader.

On Monday it rejected his nomination of Mr Chernomyrdin as Prime Minister and said that the second hearing would take place tomorrow when his appointment would be blocked again. There are also moves by some deputies to initiate impeachment proceedings against Mr Yeltsin for breaking up the Soviet Union and ordering the bloody war in Chechnya.

The longer the battle for the formation of a new Government is drawn out the harder it will be for Russia to set about tackling the pressing economic problems which have left the banking sector and stock exchange frozen and the rouble in a steady decline. IMF officials are predicting that the next tranche of \$4.3 billion (£2.5 billion) in aid to Russia, due in two weeks, is unlikely to be even considered "until October or possibly later".



Prince Harry waves to the crowd as he arrives for his first day at Eton yesterday

Royal Princes appeal for mother to be left in peace

By ALAN HAMILTON

A YEAR after the death of their mother, Prince William and Prince Harry yesterday issued a rare personal appeal to ask that she be left in peace and that there be an end to public commemoration and grieving.

The statement, read by the Princes' spokeswoman to reporters watching Prince Harry's arrival for his first day at Eton, poignantly and forcefully made clear that constant reminders of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, could create nothing but pain for the family she left behind.

Sandy Henney, the St James's Palace spokeswoman, said the statement had been issued at the express wish of the boys, who had been working on its wording since the weekend.

In it, they acknowledge that public sympathy at the time of their mother's death had greatly comforted them, but that the Princess herself would have wanted people now to move on. Their appeal was aimed not only at the media, which covered the anniversary exhaustively, but at the public, the souvenir industry and its sometimes tasteless unofficial artefacts, and undoubtedly also at Mohamed Al Fayed, who still pursues his conspiracy theory.

The Princes' statement said in full: "Throughout the last year, since the death of their mother, Prince William and Prince Harry have been comforted enormously by the public sympathy and support they have been given: it has meant a great deal to them and they have asked me to express their thanks once again to everyone. "They have also asked me to say that they believe their mother would want people now to move on - because she

would have known that constant reminders of her death can create nothing but pain to those she left behind.

"They therefore hope, very much, that their mother and her memory will now finally be allowed to rest in peace."

The sentiments of the statement were brought immediately to life as Prince Harry arrived at Manor House, opposite the main school buildings, to be greeted by Dr Andrew Gailey, his new housemaster, and Shauna, his wife, who will act in loco parentis as they have done for Prince William.

Three years ago, at the same time and in the same place, William arrived at Eton accompanied by both his estranged parents. Yesterday Harry was accompanied only by the Prince of Wales and a police driver.

As their Vauxhall Estate drew up, Harry, wearing a light sports jacket and grey trousers, emerged from the back seat with his father, smiled at the massed ranks of cameras and gave a small wave.

He seemed entirely in control of the occasion.

The Prince and his father were taken inside to be shown his quarters, a bedsitte that he can decorate with his choice of posters and pictures, and to meet Elizabeth Heathcote, his "dame", who will make his bed, tidy his room and attend to his laundry. Like all the other boys, he will address her as "Ma'am".

After half an hour, the prince emerged in teeming rain, shielded by the umbrellas of his father and housemaster, stopped briefly with another smile for the cameras, and walked to the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Blair's view on News at Ten

Tony Blair is opposed to moving the time of News at Ten to 6.30.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said Mr Blair would find it "regrettable" if the proposal were to lead downmarket. Page 8

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Global raid nets paedophile ring

By ADAM FRESKO

DETECTIVES investigating an international paedophile ring based on the Internet made dozens of arrests in 12 countries yesterday and seized hundreds of thousands of indecent images of children.

Those arrested were allegedly members of Wonderland, a secret Internet club for paedophiles all over the world, based in the United States. Members, who had to be invited to join and were given passwords, often filmed their own pornography and sent it to the club. At least one of the 11 men arrested in this country was suspected of being a producer of the images.

The global police operation, codenamed Cathedral, was co-ordinated by the National Crime Squad in London and was the biggest international police operation led by this country. Officers raided suspects' houses simultaneously in Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Finland, Austria, Belgium and America.

More than 40 people, including women, were arrested when officers searched more than 100 addresses at San Francisco.

The 11 arrests in Britain were made by forces across the country, including four in London. Child protection officers accompanied police on all the raids in case they found any children who were being abused or were in danger.

The two main computers storing the images in America have been closed and the organisers arrested. But officers fear that the website could have been copied and might start up again with a different name and different code words.

Bob Packham, deputy director-general of the National Crime Squad, said police were hoping eventually to trace and provide help for the thousands of children involved all over the world.

Hiding on the Net, page 3

Rothermere of the Mail dies at 73

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND RAYMOND SNODDY

One of Britain's most influential national newspaper groups faced new uncertainty last night after the sudden death of Viscount Rothermere, the last of the great press barons.

The 73-year-old chairman of the Daily Mail and General Trust, publishers of the Daily Mail, died on Tuesday evening of a heart attack after dining with his 30-year-old son, Jonathan, in London.

His death comes less than three months after Sir David English, chairman of the group's national newspaper division, Associated Newspapers, died of a stroke.

Together the two men had virtually recreated the newspaper middle market in Britain and left the once-mighty Daily Express trailing.

Unassuming heir, page 5 Obituary, page 23 Family control, page 25 Commentary, page 27

Trimble set to meet Adams after new peace gesture by Sinn Fein

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND MARTIN FLETCHER

THE pace of the Northern Ireland peace process quickened last night with clear indications that David Trimble is poised to hold a face-to-face meeting with Gerry Adams, the first between the leaders of Unionism and Republicanism.

News of the likely encounter, expected to take place late next week, broke hours after Sinn Fein took another dramatic step away from its violent past by naming Martin McGuinness as its representative to the international body on paramilitary disarmament. It also came as Tony Blair, addressing the Commons as it debated emergency anti-terrorist laws, told the Omagh bombers that they had failed in their bid to wreck the Good Friday peace accord.

In a day of fast-moving events, before President Clinton's arrival in Belfast today, James Fisher and Mark Wright, the two Scots Guardsmen jailed for life for shooting

a Belfast youth in 1992, were freed in a surprise move by Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

MPs at Westminster were sitting late to approve the new laws cracking down on terrorist splinter groups, including the Real IRA, which has admitted the Omagh bombing. Although the Bill is certain to be passed eventually, the Government faced fierce criticism from MPs of all parties for its alleged haste at tabling the legislation and, the decision to widen it to stop people conspiring in Britain to commit terrorism elsewhere.

Tony Benn accused the Government of treating Parliament as a rubber-stamp, just like the Supreme Soviet summoned to carry out the will of the Communist Central Committee. About 16 Labour MPs rebelled against the motion cutting short the debate.

But the Prime Minister condemned the Omagh bombing as "a deliberate attempt by a

small group of extremists, with no moral or political support, to wreck the Good Friday agreement".

He defended the package to tackle terrorism as a "proportionate and targeted response to deal with small and evil groups of violent men who seek to wreck the hopes for peace which the great majority yearn for and have voted for".

He told the bombers directly: "You sought to wreck the agreement, and you have failed. You sought to divide the community, and you failed. You sought to win new support, and you failed.

"You failed because violence and terror represent the past in Northern Ireland, and democracy and peace represent the future."

The series of carefully planned moves to maintain the momentum of the peace process came on the eve of Mr Clinton's arrival in Belfast this morning. Mr Adams announced the appointment of

Mr McGuinness to the decommissioning body just one day after he all but declared Northern Ireland's 30-year conflict to be over. Yesterday, he said: "The issue of arms must be finally and satisfactorily settled."

The Sinn Fein president couched his statement with a demand that all parties now speedily and fully implement the Good Friday accord - a clear reference to the Unionists' refusal to admit his party to Northern Ireland's new executive without proof of its commitment to non-violence.

Mr Trimble called the announcement a "sensible move in the right direction which is long overdue", but added: "We shall now see by their actions whether they are sincere about ending violence for good."

But Unionists said Mr Trimble may now take the

Continued on page 2, col 3

Leading article and Letters, page 21

Are you ready to challenge convention?



Mercedes-Benz

# Hillary is in positive mood as Ulster waits for Clinton

By VALERIE GROVE

IT WAS body language we were listening for, and body is a language at which Hillary Rodham Clinton is adept — poised, tailored, spirited and defiant.

Her deep, rich voice, which resonated through the Waterfront Centre's vast, circular auditorium to a rapt audience of 2,000, struck with astonishing force and power. Say it loud: I'm a woman and I'm proud, she might have boomed.

However aggrieved and wretched she must have felt inside lately, Hillary had come to Belfast determined to be inspiring to the "Vital Voices: Women in Democracy" conference, and the women — from every variety of caring, peacemaking, enterprising organisation — were agog to be inspired. She said she had felt "embraced" by Northern Ireland and the embrace was palpable, and Belfast's famous "crack" became a real crescendo buzz in that hall before Hillary strode in, in her navy trousersuit, to a standing ovation.

Hillary had come "to celebrate the role the women of Northern Ireland have played in achieving the peace". In most minds beforehand lingered Mrs Clinton's recent performances in more domestic peacekeeping, but here was a woman who has made a Faustian pact: to make the utmost of what her husband's prominent position can offer her and to support, defend and publicly defend him, knowing full well that he needs her now rather more than she needs him. Hillary is already box office enough to draw a crowd and, while she has that power, she is using it to its fullest effect.

Of course, the moment the cameras went into a frenzy of

clicking was when she appeared to be wiping her eyes. Unfair — she was far from weoful and certainly not tearful in her first public speech since her husband's confession of an affair with Monica Lewinsky.

The Gioconda smile was fixed, as she listened to fellow panel speakers, though their themes at first threatened to be weighted with irony: the gender affairs campaigner for Body Shop International, and the mother of two who is also a top engineer with Ford Motors, spoke of respect for women; giving opportunity to younger women; helping young women to break into closed political circles. If Hillary found any bitter little ironies in their words, she didn't show it.

There was a dated ring about these feminist, equal opportunities topics, most of which the rest of the country got to grips with two decades ago. But in the six counties of Northern Ireland there is still not a single woman MP, MEP, or High Court judge.

But as Fiona Hughes, the 17-year-old voice of the future who introduced Hillary, pointed out it is probably significant that so much progress has been made in the peace process since the first woman Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, (Mo Mowlam could not be present as she had to be in the House.)

Today Hillary's prairie husband will be back at the waterfront to address the new Assembly. And it is not until later, when the Clintons travel to Omagh, that we shall see whether they are still holding hands. I suspect they will: for what better example of making up despite deep rifts could there be to the people of Northern Ireland.



Hillary Clinton yesterday. She said she had felt "embraced" by Northern Ireland and the embrace was palpable.

Continued from page 1  
hugely symbolic step of holding his first bilateral meeting with Mr Adams late next week, ostensibly to discuss the work of the new assembly. This would be the first such encounter between the leaders of Unionism and Republicanism in Northern Ireland.

Mr Trimble will speak directly to Mr Adams for the first time at a meeting of Northern Ireland's political leaders next Monday. He would press the Sinn Fein leader "to take the next necessary step of actual decommissioning".

## Ulster accord

Mr Adams refused to say whether Mr McGuinness's appointment should be seen as a sign of the IRA's willingness to disarm. "I'm not answering any questions at all about the IRA. I speak for Sinn Fein," he said.

Yesterday's development was the second in a carefully choreographed sequence of steps devised by London, Dublin and Washington to surmount the disarmament issue and bring Sinn Fein

into the new executive. Downing Street welcomed it as an "important practical step" that underlined Sinn Fein's commitment to the Good Friday deal, but reaffirmed the need for actual decommissioning. In the Commons the Prime Minister emphasised that decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, within two years, was a vital part of a lasting settlement. "I hope the process begins as soon as possible," he said.

Leading article and Letters, page 21

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Staff report head over 'race' remark

A headmaster is to be investigated by governors after allegedly describing a new pupil as "black as the ace of spades". Michael Carding, headmaster of Bishop Heber High School, in Malpas, Cheshire, is said to have made the comment at the end of last term while briefing staff about a new pupil. Teachers alerted unions, and a joint letter from the National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers was sent to Cheshire County Council, saying: "We consider such a remark, if made, to be racist and deeply offensive." The council asked governors to investigate the allegation. The school's 900 pupils are predominantly white and live in a rural farming area. Sources indicated that Mr Carding may have been highlighting to other staff that coming into the area could prove difficult for a black child.

#### Concern over gypsies

The Government is considering re-imposing visa restrictions on people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as a way of stopping the upsurge in gypsies seeking asylum in Britain. Officials have expressed concern to the governments of both states. Yesterday 45 gypsies arrived at Heathrow from Prague, bringing to 1,101 the number seeking political asylum since the beginning of August. Most of the gypsies are from Slovakia.

#### Noye fights extradition

Kenneth Noye is to fight moves to extradite him from Spain in connection with the M25 "road rage" murder of Stephen Cameron. Henry Milner, his solicitor, said publicity over the past two years meant he could not have a fair trial. Mr Noye is being held at the maximum security prison in Puerto de Santa Maria, near Cádiz, but is expected to be moved to Madrid within days. Mr Cameron, 21, was stabbed to death on a motorway slip road at Swanley, Kent, in May 1996.

#### Backing for wind power

The Government yesterday gave its official backing for offshore wind power. John Battle, the Energy Minister, said offshore wind was one of the UK's greatest untapped natural resources. He said the government wanted to incorporate offshore wind energy into the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation Order process, the system set up to create a fledgling renewable energy market, and make it "a dependable and environmentally sound technology".

#### Teachers' pay dispute

The biggest teaching union was heading for a clash with the Government over pay yesterday after its members rejected plans for performance-related salaries. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, is planning a Green Paper this autumn that will set out the case for linking teachers' pay to pupils' results. But a poll of 12,000 members of the National Union of Teachers opposed any link, even if pupils' backgrounds were taken into account.

#### Solicitors disciplined

Fifty-eight solicitors were struck off and another 32 suspended from practice in the past 12 months, according to the annual report of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. A further 76 solicitors were fined sums ranging from £250 to £10,000; total fines amounted to £216,500. In all, 245 cases came before the tribunal, which predicts an increase in its workload as an increase of 30 per cent in the number of complaints had been reported by the end of February.

## Watchdog seeks tougher fines for big polluters

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TOUGHER fines for polluters were demanded yesterday by the Government's environmental watchdog body.

Nearly 600 companies and individuals were taken to court in the 12 months to the end of March, a 16 per cent increase on the previous year, the Environment Agency announced at its annual meeting in London.

"While we achieved one exceptional fine — against ICI — the going rate for chemical pollutants seems to be £2,000 per tonne of pollution," Ed Gallagher, the agency's chief executive, said. "These fines of a few thousand pounds are no deterrent to multimillion-pound companies. We want fines that reflect the seriousness of the crime."

ICI was fined £300,000 at Warrington Crown Court in March after pleading guilty to allowing 150 tonnes of chloro-

form to leak from a pipe into groundwater at its site at Runcorn, in Cheshire.

The Environment Agency itself came under attack from Friends of the Earth. Campaigners paraded outside Regent's College, where the meeting was being held, calling for the sacking of the chairman, Lord De Ramsey.

Tony Juniper, policy and campaigns director, said: "Lord De Ramsey has set a poor example by allowing genetically modified crops to be grown on his land and by selling off green belt land for building new houses. The public can hardly have confidence in someone who shows such poor judgment."

Lord De Ramsey said genetically engineered sugar beet was being grown on his land as part of a scientific trial. "The purpose is to see whether the crop will need less

use of pesticides to kill worm infestations than a conventional sugar beet variety. This seems to me just the sort of experiment that the chairman of the Environment Agency should be involved in."

Lord De Ramsey said the land he had sold was not part of the green belt and had had planning permission for development for 30 years.

Mr Gallagher told the meeting that in the two years since the agency started work, more than 1,000 companies and individuals had been prosecuted and nine people had gone to jail. However, the work was being undermined by lenient sentences.

British Nuclear Fuels, meanwhile, was yesterday fined £20,000, and ordered to pay £19,415.73 costs, for breaching conditions attached to the discharge of effluent into the River Ribble, Lancashire.

## Royal Princes call for peace

Continued from page 1

main school building, throwing a mischievous backward glance in response to the calls of photographers.

Under the statue of Henry VI, Eton's founder, the Prince was introduced by his father to John Lewis, the Head Master, and his deputy, Lower Master David Lowther. They briefly talked in the rain before going in for Harry to sign the entrants' book.

In an oak-panelled room covered with the carved initials of long-ago pupils, Harry sat down before the open book, flanked by his father and Head Master. He picked up a cheap ballpoint pen and prepared to write his name.

"Make sure you sign it in the right place," counselled the Prince of Wales, remembering that his elder son had entered his name on the wrong line. "Shut up," responded Harry good-naturedly.

Harry wrote carefully and

in full, Henry Charles Albert David of Wales, and his date of birth, 15.9.84. Under the column headed "religion", the school staff had already pencilled in "C of E".

Then he and his father went to a side room for a private farewell, and the young Prince walked back to his house in the rain, smiling once more at the cameras. He was joined later, again in private, by his brother.

Harry will be seen again briefly this morning when he crosses the street for the first time in his school uniform. After that, the Palace has told the media, the press facility ends.

Mr Al Fayed later responded to the Prince's statement through Laurie Mayer, his spokesman, who said: "Mr Al Fayed would like to feel able to let his son's memory rest in peace. Sadly he cannot until he knows the full truth about how he died."

## Europe upholds politics ban on council officials

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FOUR men who were barred from taking part in political activities because of the nature of their jobs in local government lost their challenge to the Government in Strasbourg yesterday.

In a test case with implications for some 40,000 local government workers, the European Court of Human Rights upheld the Government's right to protect democracy by preventing some employees from participating in "normal political activities".

Regulations preventing officials in "politically restricted" jobs from taking part in political activities, were not a breach of human rights, the court ruled. The regulations, made under the Housing and Local Government Act 1989, had curtailed the political activities of Robin Ahmed, Dennis Perrin, Ray Bentley and David Brough, all of

whom all held senior jobs in local government.

Mr Ahmed, 57, was a solicitor with the London Borough of Hackney when he was adopted as a Labour candidate for municipal elections in Enfield in 1990. But he was told that because of the nature of his job he could not stand. Mr Perrin, 50, from Yelverton, was principal area planner with Devon County Council. He had to give up his position as vice-chairman and property officer of Exeter Labour Party.

Mr Bentley, 51, from Exeter, was a planning manager with Plymouth City Council, and was forced to resign as chairman of Torridge and West Devon Constituency Labour Party. Mr Brough, 66, from Edgware, North London, was head of committee services with the London Borough of Hillingdon and had been involved in local politics in

Harrow East until the 1989 Act took effect.

The European Commission on Human Rights in May last year allowed the case to be put before the European Court of Human Rights, arguing there had been a breach of provisions in the European Convention on Human Rights designed to uphold freedom of expression.

But in addition to these provisions the convention also states the exercise of such freedoms carries duties and responsibilities and can be restricted by governments.

Yesterday the European Court of Human Rights said the restrictions in British law were justified: "The court considers the interference aimed at protecting the rights of others, council members and the electorate alike, to effect political democracy at the local level."

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سكزا من الاصل

# Pervverts used Internet to hide from law

WONDERLAND, the worldwide Internet club for paedophiles that sparked dozens of arrests yesterday, was a "secretive and professional" website set up in America. It used a sophisticated network of codes and passwords to protect its obscene images from discovery by the authorities.

It was only when officers in Sussex, working on behalf of US Customs, seized two computer databases during a separate inquiry that they discovered the club's existence. Once they realised the nature of the website in April this year, they passed the investigation on to the National Crime Squad. As they began to break through the security measures of the databases, NCS officers found some of the names and addresses that were raided yesterday.

Anyone wanting to join the club had to be invited by an existing member of the group, which at one time numbered almost 200 people in over 20 countries. They also had to prove that they possessed more than 10,000 separate images of children, some as young as two, and were willing to share them. The images had to be different from the hundreds of thousands already stored in the Wonderland database, so existing members would benefit from the new members. The system automatically rejected any images already stored. In effect, the club was a vast library of paedophile material which members could browse, copy and keep.

Yesterday morning, au-

**Police had to call in computer experts to crack paedophiles' website, reports Adam Fresco**

authorities raided 32 addresses in America, 16 in Italy, 18 in Germany, 14 in England, eight in Norway, four in France, three in Portugal, three in Belgium, two in Finland, two in Australia, one in Austria and one in Sweden. Another ten countries which did not take part in the operation are gathering their own intelligence and are expected to carry out raids and arrests in the coming days.

Before the arrests were carried out in this country, the suspects were kept under surveillance to establish whether they were also abusing children. Bob Packham, deputy director-general of the NCS, said that the activities of the ring had left a "horrendous legacy of abused children around the world." He said that officers would have to sift through the thousands of images to try to identify the children.

Detectives called in computer experts to help them to gain access to the two databases originally seized: they have already found more than 40,000 different images of children on them. The biggest ever seizure in this country

before was 10,000 images. Detective Superintendent John Stewardson, who led the operation, said yesterday: "I am confident this operation has targeted the hard core of individuals engaged upon Internet paedophile activity around the world. The images that we have seized are really disgusting, horrendous. It would turn the stomach of any right minded person."

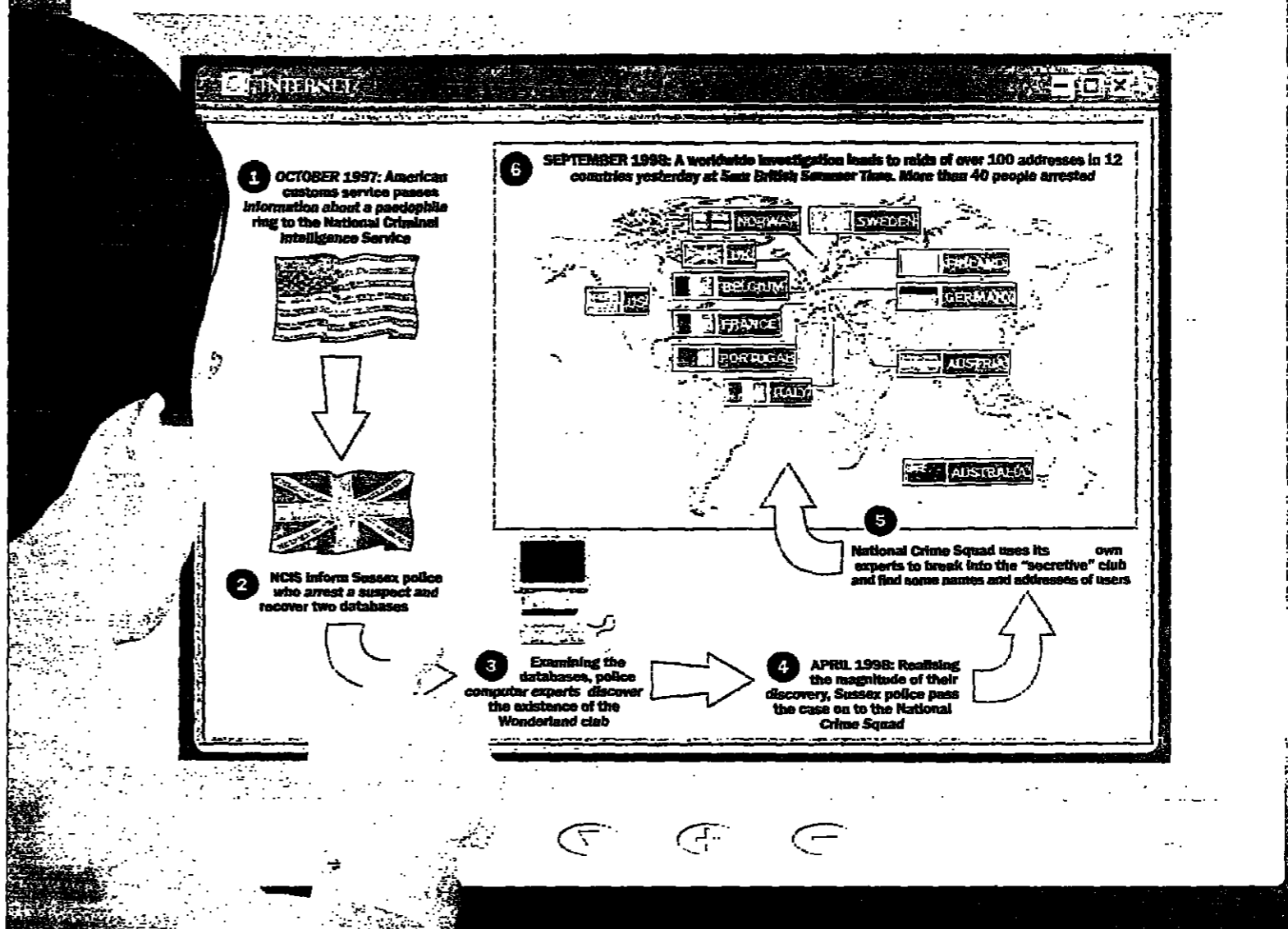
The organisation was very organised and went to great lengths to keep their operation a secret. This sort of sophistication has never been encountered before. For the most part these people are very gifted in their computer skills so we have had to bring in computer experts to get into the databases.

"We have recovered ten computer systems from this country this morning and our computer experts will be finding out what they contain. The searches are continuing today and we are confident that more arrests will follow."

"People who engage in this type of depraved activity have felt relatively secure up until now in the knowledge that the Internet is virtually unpoliced. They have been able to continue their practices with impunity but this worldwide operation has demonstrated that that is no longer the case."

Mr Packham added: "No other police operation has pulled together so many police agencies worldwide for so many raids and arrests. It has been a difficult and distressing investigation and I hope that our actions have prevented further abuse of children across the world."

## HOW OPERATION CATHEDRAL BROKE THE WONDERLAND CLUB



## Secretive routes on the superhighway

By NICHOLAS BOOTH

ALL that is required to exchange paedophile images and information on the Internet is the type of computer you can buy in your local electronics shop, some commonly available software to encrypt your data and a great deal of determination.

It doesn't cost that much — at most a few thousand pounds — to set up, it does not require sustained funding and for secretive groups its anonymity is ideal. Paedophiles can exchange

information and photographs, knowing that it is almost impossible for others to know what is being exchanged. Policing, in the traditional sense, is almost impossible on even the slowest routes on the information superhighway.

"It is very difficult to monitor this sort of activity," said Edward Wilding, a consultant at Network Security in London. "If you send information between two sites in a secure way, it is impossible to track the information."

of the Cambridge-based Internet Watch Foundation, his organisation has found 2,000 reports of illegal paedophile activity on the web last year. They are not contained on websites, rather "newsgroups", the equivalent of electronic bulletin boards where people can share information on anything and everything.

Like a cyberspace version of swapping stamps or matchboxes, almost anything can be shared via the Internet. "There are perhaps 40 newsgroups

out of an estimated total of 40,000 that regularly contain illegal material," Mr Kerr said. "Estimating the actual amount of child pornography on the web is next to impossible."

The foundation was set up by the British net industry at the request of police and the previous Conservative Government to report cases of child pornography. It relies on users of the net to report examples of possible paedophile activity. The author is deputy editor of The Times Interface section

## BBC invites murder suspects to tell all

By ADRIAN LEE

THE five young men suspected of the racist killing of Stephen Lawrence are considering an offer from the BBC to take part in a documentary about the case.

Martin Bashir, who interviewed Diana, Princess of Wales and the former au pair Louise Woodward, has asked them to appear in a *Panorama* programme to be screened in the autumn. Negotiations are continuing.

The five — Jamie and Neil Accourt, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Luke Knight — have sought advice from the publicist Max Clifford. They say they are innocent of killing Stephen at a bus

stop in Eitham, southeast London, five years ago. At an inquest into his death they refused to answer questions and, during a recent public inquiry, the terms of interrogation by lawyers for the Lawrence family were limited.

A BBC source said yesterday: "The programme seeks to get to the heart of the Lawrence case and they are obviously a key part of it."

If the men agree to be interviewed, they will receive no advance warning of questions. The programme makers said the interview would form only part of the show and that Mr Lawrence's parents had also been approached.

## Rapist stalking women at night

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A SERIAL rapist is believed to be responsible for at least six attacks on young women. A team of crime analysts have linked the attacks, which took place in the Nuneaton and South Birmingham over the past two years.

Detectives from the West Midlands and Warwickshire forces launched a joint investigation yesterday, while house-to-house inquiries continue in Nuneaton, the scene of the latest attack.

Four of the attacks were full rapes and two were serious sexual assaults. The women were attacked in the early hours of the morning while walking home. Some of the victims, aged 17 to 21, were tied up and blindfolded, and it is thought the man may have stalked his victims beforehand. Police believe

that he knows the areas well and could have lived at some time in either location.

He is believed to have first struck in Nuneaton in June 1996. A student, aged 17, was raped on a disused railway embankment after being dragged into an alley as she made her way home from the town's bus station. Further attacks in the Yardley, Selly Oak, Bourville and Frankley areas of Birmingham followed before the latest rape of an 18-year-old as she walked home from a nightclub in Nuneaton in May this year.

Three of the victims were bound with their hands behind their backs and blindfolded before being either raped or sexually assaulted. The man is described as white and aged 18 to 45. Peter Furnace, Assistant

Chief Constable of Warwickshire, who is leading the investigation, said: "During some of these attacks the whole experience was made more terrifying because he was wearing a balaclava."

"The main point of the investigation at the moment is that the man would appear to have definite ties to the Nuneaton and/or south Birmingham areas. The circumstances of the attacks are such that it is clear women who are walking around late at night in that area are at risk. Until we catch this rapist there is always the chance he will strike again."

He said it was possible that other attacks had not been reported, and urged any other victims to contact the police as they could have vital information.

## Woman shot as she escaped from crash

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

DRINKERS at a quiet country pub who ran to help victims of a car crash were confronted by a man with a sawn-off shotgun who shot the female passenger as they fled her to safety.

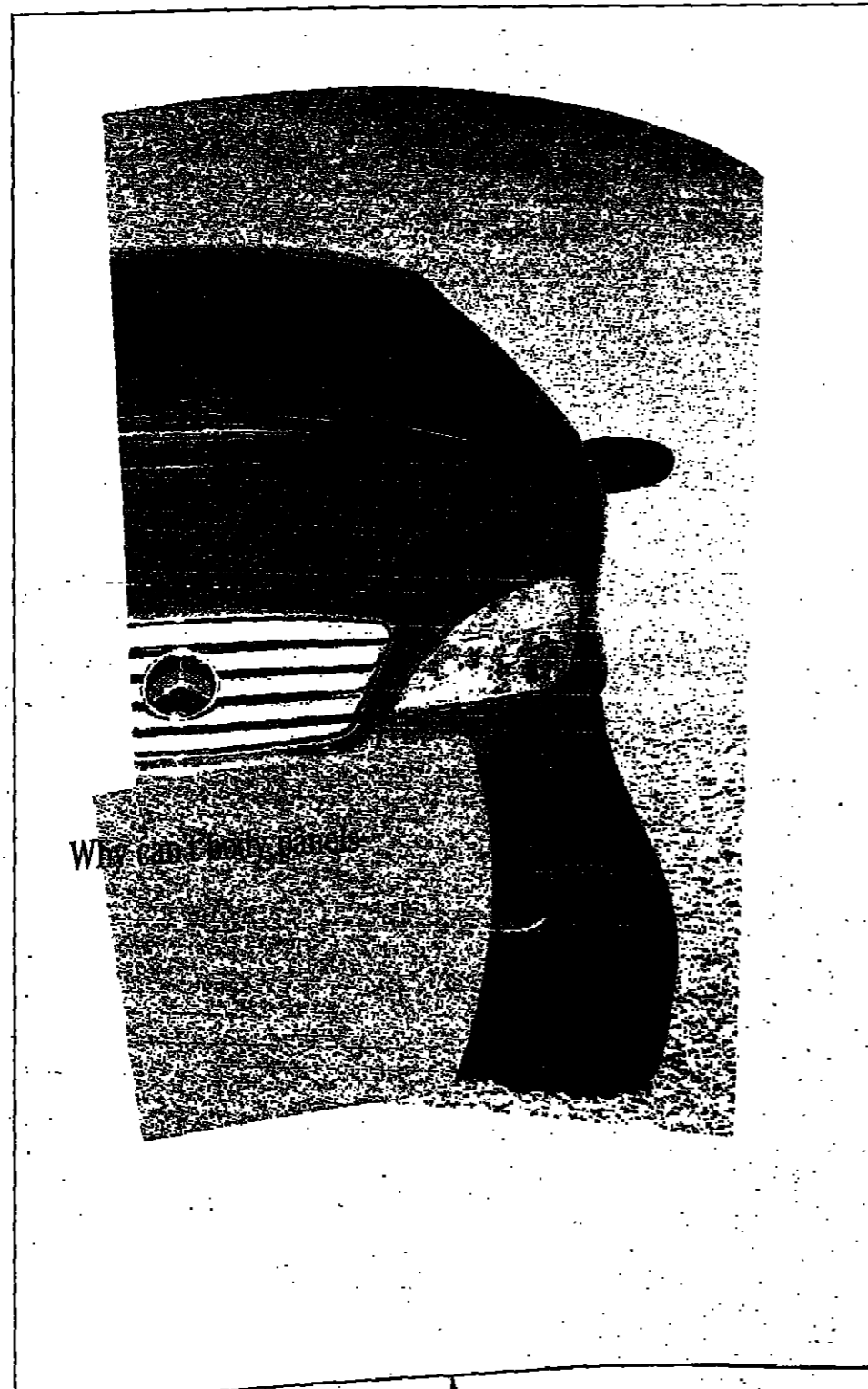
The victim, who was being treated last night for multiple wounds, had earlier been kidnapped in Weston-super-Mare. Christine Shopland, 38, was crossing the road outside the Rozel Hotel, where she is head housekeeper, when a car screeched to a halt and its driver ordered her into the passenger seat at gunpoint.

He drove away at high speed, dragging her back into the vehicle

when she tried to escape at traffic lights. After three hours on the road, the car crashed as they approached the isolated Castle of Comfort pub on the Mendip Hills. Police said the woman grabbed the steering wheel, causing the car to spin out of control.

Detective Chief Inspector Tracy Hayler, of Avon and Somerset police, said the customers, who included an off-duty policewoman, managed to overpower the man and get the gun away from him. "We have only praise for their cool-headedness and quick thinking."

A man was being detained last night at Yeovil police station.



Harvey Ball, of Massachusetts, with his 1963 face

## Happy face is no smiling matter

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INTERNATIONAL dispute has arisen over who owns Smiley, the ubiquitous yellow "feel-good" symbol with dots for eyes and an upward-curving smile.

For more than 30 years the face has been used throughout the world to promote everything from soap and cosmetics to computer games and kitchen utensils.

To 1980s students Smiley is probably best known as the symbol of LSD-taking at acid house dance parties and was widely seen on drugs-related posters in student lodgings.

But Franklin Loufrani, a Parisian entrepreneur, has applied to register Smiley as a European Community trademark, which would give him exclusive rights to use the face on a huge range of goods.

Conventional wisdom in the United States has it that Smiley was created by the commercial artist Harvey Ball of Worcester, Massachusetts, back in 1963. He had been commissioned by a local

insurance company to design an in-house happiness icon to boost staff morale. But Mr Loufrani, 55, claims he is the creator. He registered Smiley as a trademark in France in 1971 and is now reported to own the mark in more than 80 countries and to have made many millions of dollars from it.

He is being opposed, however, by a Japanese underwear manufacturer, Gunze, which also claims ownership. It says the yellow badge was invented by one of its employees in 1989 and that the company registered it as a trademark in Japan. Roger Sudbury, a solicitor with the City law firm Richards Butler who is acting for a company with an interest in the Japanese side of the dispute, said he would be opposing the trademark application. "It is such a universally recognised image as a symbol of cheerfulness that it cannot be a trademark for anyone," he added.

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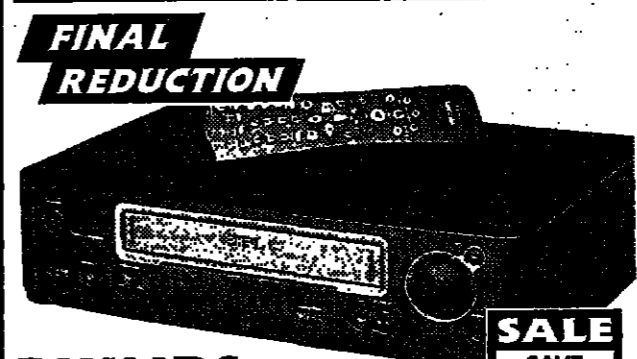


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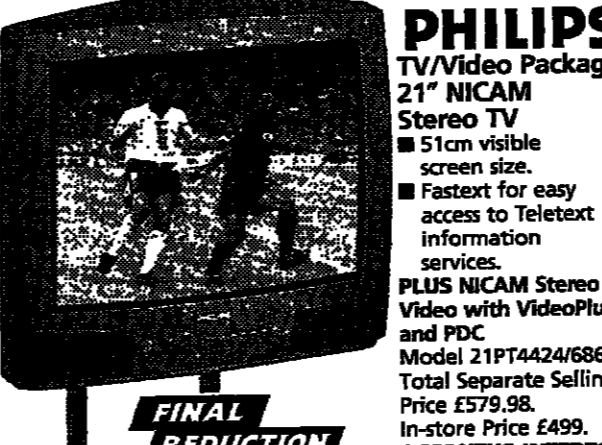
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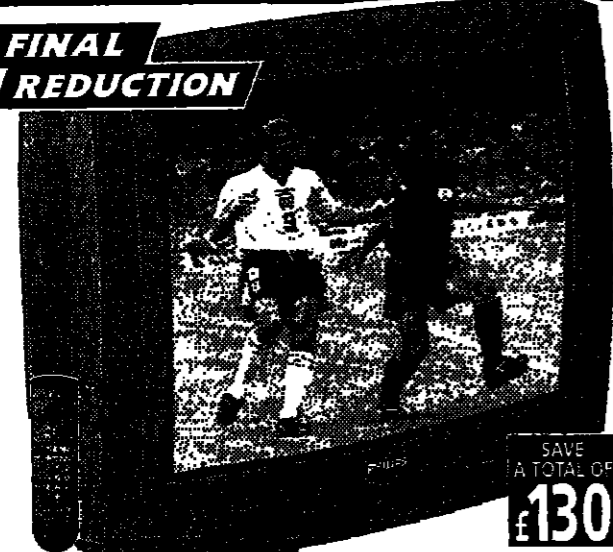
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# Widow will inherit a fortune from the press baron who worshipped her



Lord Rothermere's first wife, known as Bubbles

By CAROL MIDGLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MAIKO LEE was Viscount Rothermere's wife for just five years. But the fact that she had been a constant companion and pivotal force in his life for the past two decades was an open secret.

On Tuesday night she became one of Britain's wealthiest widows, but lost a husband whom friends said "worshipped the ground she walked on". A former international model, she was born in Japan to Korean parents and Lord Rothermere was said to have been captivated by her exotic good looks when they first met in a Paris club

in 1978. He and his first wife, Patricia, known to friends as Bubbles and to whom he was married for 35 years, had led increasingly separate lives up until 1992, when she died of an accidental overdose of sleeping pills.

He never concealed the fact that Miss Lee, 49, lived as his mistress in Paris (he has a rented apartment on the 11<sup>th</sup> St Louis, in the middle of the Seine) while his wife lived in London, and she would sit openly at his side at the top table during official dinners.

Friends say she exerted a formidable influence on the newspaper baron and was one of the few people who dared to say when she

thought he was wrong. "He would consult her on business matters all the time," said a source. "He respected her opinion and she was privy to virtually all his decisions."

"Maiko is a very independent-minded woman. She has a taste for the finer things in life, like expensive food and clothes, but she is by no means a meek, obedient 'shopping' wife."

Although they had no children, both shared an affection for dogs. Their much-loved Japanese akita, Ryu-ma, attended their wedding in Paris in 1993 wearing a red silk bow around his neck.

Such was Lord Rothermere's devotion to his second wife, that

once, during a dinner with Tony Blair before the 1997 general election, he pressed the Labour leader repeatedly about his policy on British quarantine laws—a subject close to Lady Rothermere's heart. She is said to hate leaving her dog behind whenever she visits Britain.

Yesterday Lady Rothermere was at London's Connaught Hotel with her step-children, Jonathan, Geraldine and Camilla, where arrangements for the funeral were being discussed. She had been in France when Lord Rothermere was suddenly taken ill after dinner at his son's house in London.

The couple do not have a property in Britain, always preferring to

stay at an hotel, usually Claridge's. They had, however, an apartment in New York and recently bought a huge country house in the Perigord, which Lord Rothermere had recently remarked he was "beginning to think of as home."

Sources say Lady Rothermere has been generously provided for in his will. The late Lord Rothermere is listed jointly with Richard Branson as the 14th richest man in Britain, worth £1 billion.

Lady Rothermere is expected to continue in her capacity as President of the International Friends of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Lord Menuhin said that he recruited her to the job because she was

particularly suited. "She was born in Japan of Korean parents, so the whole of Asia is her territory. New York is one of her favourite cities and, of course, she loves the old world too: Paris, London and Salzburg, where we met," Lord Menuhin said.

The irony that Lord Rothermere's former lifestyle, with a mistress in one country and a wife in another, was perfect fodder for the pages of the *Daily Mail* was not lost on industry observers. But for him, it was nobody's business but his own.

In a recent interview he ventured that his family set-up had been no different from half the families in Britain.

## Rothermere crown for unassuming heir

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE most dangerous moment for press dynasties is when the new generation takes over. The 3rd Viscount Rothermere, who died suddenly on Tuesday evening, served a 20-year apprenticeship in every nook and cranny of the *Daily Mail* empire — including some so humble that he earned the nickname "Mere Vere" before becoming chairman at 46.

His son, Jonathan, will now be catapulted into the top job without warning at the age of 30 and with, most think, his education in newspaper proprietorship as yet incomplete. "Pleasant" and "unassuming" are the words people first reach for to describe Jonathan Harmsworth, now the fourth Viscount Rothermere, and the man who must take on responsibility of running the *Daily Mail* and General Trust.

Newspaper cuttings hint only modestly at the grooming process to prepare him for his dynastic destiny in charge of a newspaper group founded more than a century ago.

Yet his father, during his excruciatingly long apprenticeship, was similarly not expected to achieve much. Those who know Jonathan Harmsworth say that he should not be written off. They detect many of his father's characteristics, such as caniness and determination.

Jonathan's conventional education took place at Gordonstoun and at Duke University in North Carolina, but his real

education, closely supervised by his father, has been aimed at preparing him for the lonely role of newspaper proprietor.

His experience has ranged from weekly newspapers during school holidays to the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris and the *Daily Record* in Glasgow. At the *Record* he was a reporter and a sub-editor and learnt about newspaper promotions.

There was also a stint at one of Associated Newspapers' regional titles in Tunbridge Wells before he moved on to the group's headquarters in London, first as deputy managing director and later as managing director of the *Evening Standard*.

It is likely that at the next board meeting of the *Daily Mail* and General Trust, the company that controls the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Stan-*



Jonathan Harmsworth: taking on a lonely role

ard, Jonathan Harmsworth will become chairman.

His catapulting into the top job by the death of his father has probably come a year or two early. But he is surrounded by his team of young managers to help him and the three most influential executives at the company, Charles Sinclair, the chief executive,

Murdoch McClelland, the managing director of Associated Newspapers, and Paul Dacre, editor-in-chief, can be expected to close ranks around him.

The pressure will be intensified by the fact that the death of Lord Rothermere comes only two months after the equally sudden death of his friend and colleague of 40 years, Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers.

The newspaper legacy that Jonathan Harmsworth has been left is an impressive one. As Vere Rothermere was fond of saying, he took over two ailing newspapers — the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Sketch* — and created three strong ones: a revitalised *Mail* that has long surpassed *The Express*, *The Mail on Sunday* and the *Standard*.

His way of investing in newspapers was a decidedly dynastic one — he invested for the long term and stuck with *The Mail on Sunday* for a decade before it started to become a dominant force in the middle market on Sunday.

Even as Jonathan Harmsworth starts to face up to problems that would have startled the first Lord Rothermere, such as 200-channel television and the Internet, the dynastic future of the company has been secured.

A son was born to Jonathan and Claudia Harmsworth in 1994. They called him Vere.

Obituary, page 23

### THE TRIBUTES

Tony Blair: "He was an extraordinary man and underneath that very bluff exterior was a sure touch, his absence will be keenly felt as a stalwart defender of our freedoms..."

William Hague: "Those of us fortunate enough to have known him will also remember him for his warmth and humanity..."

Jeremy Deedes (managing director of the Telegraph group): "Lord Rothermere's greatest tributes are his three national newspapers that survive him. They all three dominate their markets was, in a large part, down to his foresight, persistence and vision..."

## Editor will have task of maintaining momentum

By BRIAN MACARTHUR

THE success of the *Daily Mail* was founded on the umbilical relationship between Viscount Rothermere and Sir David English. Above all, Rothermere had an almost messianic belief that it was the quality of their journalism that made good newspapers.

"The journalist run everything and the managers do what we tell them," Sir David often boasted.

The most profound question now for Associated Newspapers is whether Jonathan Harmsworth can form the same relationship with Paul Dacre, the editor of the *Daily Mail* who was English's chosen heir as editor, and Rothermere's chosen heir to English as editor-in-chief of the *Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard*.

There will be anxiety that the new Lord Rothermere has inherited too early at the age of 30, but he has had a thorough grounding in newspapers.

He will, however, have to rely on Mr Dacre — the new editorial elder statesman of Northcliffe House and the most powerful editor in Britain — to maintain the momentum achieved during his father's era.

Mr Dacre, 49, is crucial to the continuing success of Associated Newspapers, one of Britain's strongest media companies. He is a driven man who works 14-hour days and expects the same commitment from his staff. As editor, his success has been even greater than Sir David's.



Viscount Rothermere and his second wife, Maiko Lee. They met at a Paris club

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# The Eurofighter weathers storm over Typhoon

By DANIEL MCGRODY

THE makers of the Eurofighter, having overcome German objections to their choice of name for the combat jet, officially named it the Typhoon yesterday.

The Germans, who are among the four European partners producing and buying the plane, were not happy about calling it after an RAF fighter that caused them massive devastation in the Second World War. As a compromise, ministers agreed that the Germans should ignore the catchy name British Aerospace plans to use in its export sales pitch and call it simply the Eurofighter. As part of the deal the air forces of Britain, Italy and Spain will do the same.

As the jet was put through its paces for the cameras at Farnborough yesterday, Brian Phillipson, managing director of the Eurofighter company, denied there was a row over the name among the partners. "We got agreement very, very quickly," he said, pointing out that Typhoon was also the name for a German Messerschmitt Me180, "so the name has a very proud history".

This did not explain why a lavish naming ceremony planned for March was hastily cancelled because of rumours of German rancour.

A senior RAF officer said last night: "We have no input into what it's called, that is down to the plane's makers. But we can see how the



Typhoon: traditionally British style of name

Germans would be sensitive. The Typhoon was responsible for a lot of German casualties in the last two years of the war."

Richard Simpson, keeper of aircraft at the RAF Museum in Hendon, said: "The Germans did not like this suggestion at all, but the British always like to call planes after violent weather systems, like Tornado and Hurricane. Salesmen need catchy names and obviously they think Typhoon will seduce foreign buyers."

The RAF is taking 232 Eurofighters and the Government has invested £15 billion in the project, which will safeguard 80,000 jobs. The Germans have ordered 180 jets, Italy 120 and Spain 87, but the manufacturers expect to sell more than 800 planes

worth more than £70 billion.

Mr Phillipson said: "We wanted a name that we all felt was appropriate for the product, for the guys who were flying it and for the export market. It is a name that conveys the right sort of image. It was just something we were all happy with."

The only other option offered for the European allies' consideration was the Tempest. A final meeting last month preferred the original suggestion, Typhoon.

The wartime version was a ground attack fighter that flew hundreds of missions destroying German tanks, rail installations and artillery positions, as well as strafing its infantry. It was the first RAF fighter that could fly faster than 400mph and the only one that could catch the Luftwaffe's Focke-Wulf 190, which specialised in low-level attacks across the South of England.

Design work on the Hawker Typhoon began in 1937 and it first flew in 1940. It came into its own "suppressing" enemy defences during the 1944 D-Day landings.

The plane was also a success in decimating what was left of the transport infrastructure in Northern Germany, causing widespread civilian casualties and attacking Panzer divisions at Caen and the Falaise gap. "Cab rank" patrols were mounted so that they could be called in by ground forces to attack German gun positions. The plane's thick wings allowed it to carry two 1,000lb

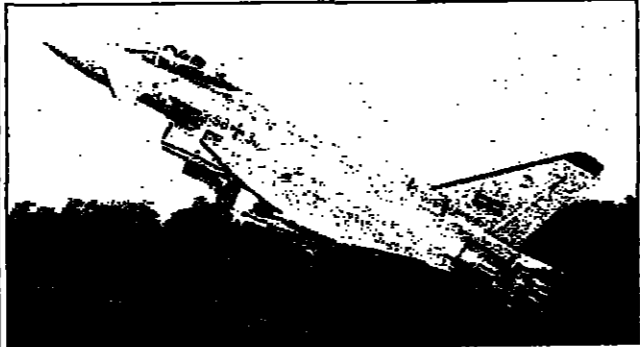


Under wraps: Cadets from the ATC stand guard over the Eurofighter before its official unveiling at Farnborough in Hampshire yesterday

bombs as well as four 20mm cannon and eight 60lb rockets.

The Ministry of Defence said last night it was "quite happy with the name, though frankly pilots don't care what it is called as long as it does the job".

Second World War pilots habitually called the Typhoons "Tiffies", although present RAF fighter pilots have nicknamed it after a brand of teabag. One said last night: "We hope it doesn't get as many perforations and sink as fast."



Take-off: the original Typhoon, which first flew nearly 60 years ago, and the latest version at Farnborough

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Daimler-Benz has developed the first-ever fuel cell car to use methanol as the fuel. Based on the Mercedes A-class, the revolutionary new vehicle represents a decisive breakthrough in the quest to develop a drive system with extremely low emissions.

The car, known as NECAR3 (New Electric Car), fills up with liquid methanol. With the aid of a reformer system located in the rear of the vehicle, the methanol is converted on-line into hydrogen through water-vapour reformation. The hydrogen gas is then fed into the fuel cells where it is combined with atmospheric oxygen - but without combustion - to directly produce electrical energy used to power the vehicle.

Previous fuel cell systems could only operate in conjunction with bulky hydrogen tanks for fuel storage. With NECAR3, the entire process is much more direct: press the accelerator pedal and an astonishing 90 percent of the system's power is available in just two seconds. In terms of driving dynamics, this puts fuel cell vehicles using methanol on a par with conventional petrol or diesel-powered cars.

Dispensing with the hydrogen tanks not only reduces vehicle weight, but it also greatly improves the everyday practicality of the new vehicle: petrol stations can theoretically handle methanol, which doesn't require special safety measures, nearly as easily as petrol or diesel. What's more, NECAR3 has a range of some 250 miles on a tank of 8.7 gallons of methanol - similar to conventional vehicles.

Daimler-Benz decided to opt for methanol because it is the most suitable fuel for hydrogen generation. Although petrol and diesel were also considered, the efficiency levels of these fuels would have been lower. For the introductory phase of fuel-cell powered vehicles at least, engineers are considering the possibility of a multi-fuel concept which, as the name suggests, would permit the use of different types of fuel until methanol is widely available.

The drive system of NECAR3 is virtually emission-free. Neither nitrogen oxides nor soot particles are created during conversion of methanol to hydrogen or in the subsequent generation of electrical energy. And thanks to the extreme efficiency of the fuel cells, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions are substantially below those of conventional cars.

With the advent of onboard hydrogen generation, a crucial step has been taken towards developing the environmentally friendly fuel cell technology that could eventually power vehicles of the future. An equally important milestone on the road to this lofty goal is the incorporation of the entire system into the 3.57 m long A-class. Once again, the innovative double-floor sandwich concept employed in the A-class has proved its worth, allowing the complete installation of the fuel cells and several auxiliary units underneath the passenger cell.

The methanol fuel tank, reformer and control system are located in the rear of the car.

The methanol reformer technology in NECAR3 has benefited from a wide range of technological advances at Daimler-Benz. Not only has the system been made smaller and more efficient, but the performance and dynamic response of the reformation process have also been improved. The result is a compact unit of some 18 inches in height. Located in the rear of the A-class, the reformer directly injects hydrogen into the fuel cells. Hydrogen production occurs at a temperature of 280° centigrade: methanol and water vaporize to give hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), and carbon monoxide (CO).

The hydrogen protons travel through the polymer membrane while the electrons travel through an external circuit to arrive at the positive electrode. There, the oxygen, hydrogen protons and electrons combine to form water. An electric motor attached to the external circuit is then used to drive the vehicle.

Fuel cell cars represent one facet of the wealth of research and development being carried out by Daimler-Benz into the way that cars and other forms of transport can be improved for the future. If these advances continue with the same speed as they do currently, we could be driving fuel cell cars by 2004. For more information, contact the Mercedes-Benz website at [www.mercedes-benz.co.uk](http://www.mercedes-benz.co.uk)

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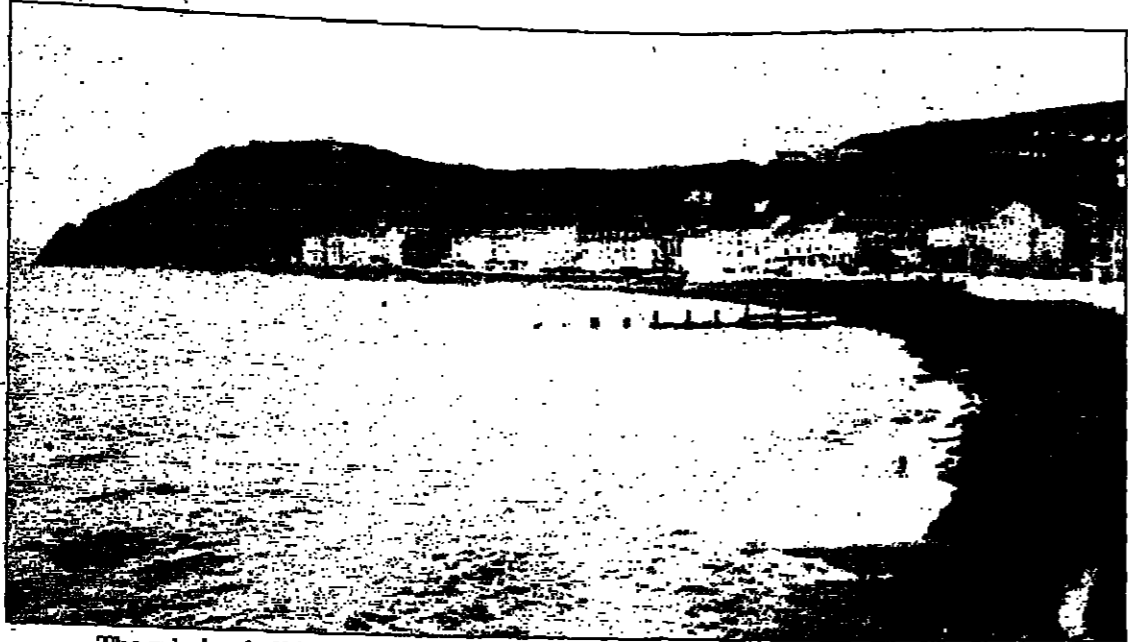
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# Welsh tourist chief not welcome in hills



The missing holidaymakers: a cloudy evening at Aberystwyth, compared with crowds enjoying the sunshine at Valencia. Adverts say that Wales is "two hours and a million miles away"

Executive who took summer holiday in Spain is now on extra leave, Simon de Bruxelles and Tim Jones report



French: he promoted emptiness of Wales

THE head of the Wales Tourist Board was on "extended leave" last night after being severely criticised for taking a three-week holiday in Spain during a bad summer for the nation he is paid £63,000-a-year to promote.

John French, 53, was expected back at work from the Costa del Sol on Tuesday. The board announced that he would not be returning yet, but refused to confirm that he was in discussions about his future. A spokesman said: "Everyone is entitled to take their holidays wherever they like, although obviously people in the tourist industry feel that Wales is by far and away the best place for a break."

Hotels, seaside resorts and tourist attractions say trade is down by a 20 per cent across Wales. Dull weather and the strong pound have been blamed for a slump in the number of holidaymakers from Britain and

abroad. But there has also been criticism of the marketing strategy adopted by the tourist board which has promoted Wales's scenery and outdoor attractions in preference to traditional bucket-and-spade holidays. A £5 million advertising campaign depicted Wales as a land of deserted beaches and lonely mountains. Critics said this made Wales look empty and unappealing.

Ashford Price, who runs a showcaves and dinosaur park at Dan-yr-Ogof, near Swansea, wrote to the Welsh Office to complain about Mr French's Spanish holiday. Yesterday he said: "Tourism in Wales is a fast-sinking ship but at least we should have someone to tell us where the lifeboats are."

"We're in crisis and it is ridiculous that our leader is shooting off to Spain. Spain is our competition. It is like your

leading striker scoring an own goal." Jonathan Quant, who fears he may have to close his wildlife park at Pencynor, near Neath, said: "The Wales Tourist Board does not appear to know how to market the area. Everywhere in the world, people have positive images of Ireland or Scotland but of Wales, if they know of it, they think of coal and grime."

Jim Moore, chairman of Brecon Beacon Tourist, which represents holiday operators in the national park, said that the campaign which promoted Wales as "two hours and a million miles away" conveyed the wrong image. "Whereas the WTB spends £3 million, the Irish spend £60 million. In Wales, the board seems to miss the target. The industry needs more than stressed-out Londoners on weekend breaks."

Mr French was unavailable to

comment yesterday. The spokesman for the Wales Tourist Board said he was on "extended leave" and added: "He has been under attack for his leadership or lack of it in a summer which has been very difficult for the tourist industry in Wales. We would not ban people from taking their holidays abroad."

The publicity campaign was said to have been undertaken after exhaustive consultation with a wide range of people involved in the industry. The spokesman added: "They liked what they saw and we are confident in our strategy."

Among other tourist chiefs, Tim Bartlett, chief executive of the English Tourist Board, went to Mexico to visit relatives of his Mexican wife, Antonio de la Morena forsook his London role as director of the Spanish Tourist Office and went to the Costa del Sol.

## THE CHOICE

**WALES**  
Visitors: 10.2 million Britons  
Local dishes: cow, a lamb broth with vegetables; leeks; laver bread  
Beaches: mostly golden and clean  
Sights: castles aplenty, the views of Overton Church near Wrexham, Llangollen Bridge, Snowdon, Wrexham spire, Pasty Rhydraf waterfalls  
Sun: Cardiff 1,553 hrs  
Rain: Cardiff 1,065 mm.

**COSTA DEL SOL**  
Visitors: 10.5 million Britons.  
Local dishes: paella, tapas, burgers  
Beaches: grey to golden  
Sights: from the high-rise horrors of Torremolinos to the delights of the little town of Marbella with whitewashed houses covered with bougainvillea and jasmine.  
Sun: Malaga 2,953 hrs  
Rain: Malaga 474 mm.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

## Two men charged with murdering aid worker

By JOANNA BAILE

TWO men have been charged with the murder of Anna Lightfoot, the British voluntary aid worker stabbed to death in Belize.

Tim Stew, the Deputy British High Commissioner, said the men, both local and aged 20 and 21, had admitted to robbing and killing Miss Lightfoot. "They didn't take a lot, just a small amount of money. There was no sexual motive." He added that one of the men would also be charged with an unrelated rape offence. Under Belize law they face the death penalty.

Miss Lightfoot, 27, from Saddleworth, near Oldham, had been in the former British colony for nine weeks, helping to organise young volunteers on a Raleigh International project to build three classrooms. She disappeared on Monday while walking through jungle to a village to buy provisions. A second post-

mortem examination and forensic tests confirmed that she died of multiple stab wounds. Her killers went through her rucksack but left the contents by her body.

Her father, David Lightfoot, a criminal lawyer from Fowey, Cornwall, said yesterday: "We're pleased that there appears to have been a successful investigation. It will help us to draw a line under it. The motive seems to have been robbery. Her rucksack was missing and has now been found, along with a possible murder weapon."

He added that her body was being flown to Britain overnight and that there would be an inquest before the funeral. He said that he and his wife, Freda, a novelist, had been impressed by the efforts of the Belize authorities to find their daughter's body and to track down the killers. "We are especially pleased for Raleigh

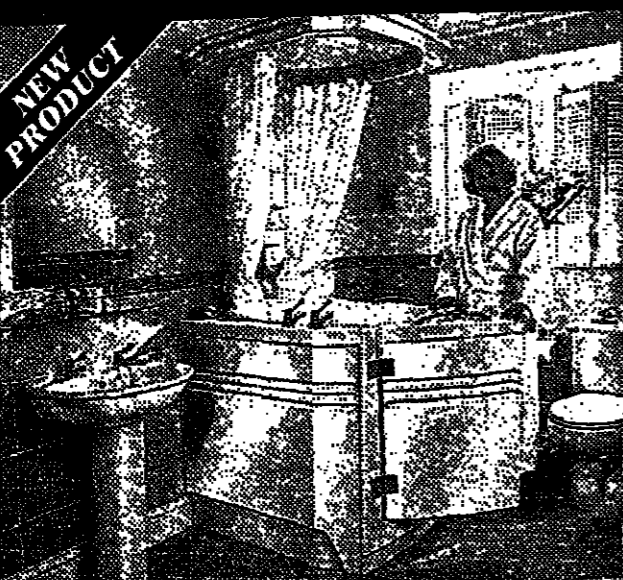
International because this hopefully means that the project will continue. Anna would have hated it if her death had jeopardised the project."

Raleigh International said all its volunteers in the country would be remaining to take part in other projects.

Miss Lightfoot had a diploma in countryside management and had previously been working as an assistant countryside warden on river projects for Thameside council. She had been in Belize working as one of 36 volunteer members of staff overseeing 93 young volunteers.

British troops have been stationed in Belize, which is on the Caribbean coast of the Central American country, since the 1970s to protect its borders from encroaching Guatemala. It has a reputation for drug-dealers and lawlessness.

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## Vet took an overdose of animal sedative

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A VET injected herself with ten times the normal dose of a tranquilliser used to knock out horses after an argument with her boyfriend.

Ceridwen Wray, 33, was found slumped in a chair at her home by her boyfriend, Richard Little. A suicide note was found beside her body along with a bottle of the tranquilliser, Somulose, and two bottles of wine.

Clair du Boulay, a pathologist, told an inquest that there were two injection marks on Miss Wray's left forearm. She said: "Tests confirmed there was a massive overdose of a local anaesthetic. Death would have occurred very quickly."

Miss Wray had been made a partner at the Seadown Veterinary Hospital in Hythe, Hampshire, several months before her death in August.

Miss Wray and Mr Little, who met in 1995, had been planning to live together but Mr Little said the relationship had become volatile and he voiced his concerns about the plan. He said they discussed the situation but, when he went to visit her the next morning, he found her slumped in a chair with the curtains drawn and the tranquilliser beside her.

Ralph Ellis, a senior partner at the Seadown Hospital, said: "She enjoyed the work and was very well-liked. She was cheerful, popular and extremely gifted. This is a great loss to the practice and to the profession as well."

The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide.

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# Curiosity makes you a cat's best friend

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE popular notion that cats are attracted to the laps of those who like them least has been refuted by scientists. Cats, it seems, are less contrary than previously assumed, and almost dog-like in their devotion to those who give them attention.

The research, carried out by scientists at Southampton University's Institute of Anthropology, studied videos of men meeting unfamiliar cats in a room to find out how human eye-contact, or lack of it, affected feline behaviour.

Deborah Goodwin and John Bradshaw, of the research team, explained: "We explored the commonly held belief that cats are attracted to people who dislike them. We tried to determine whether this might be related to the way that such people look at cats and how cats respond."

The scientists, whose research is published in *New Scientist*, tested their theory using eight cats and 16 men. Half the men said they liked cats and half said they did not.

The men were seated in a room and a cat was let in. They were asked to avoid stroking or talking to the cat,

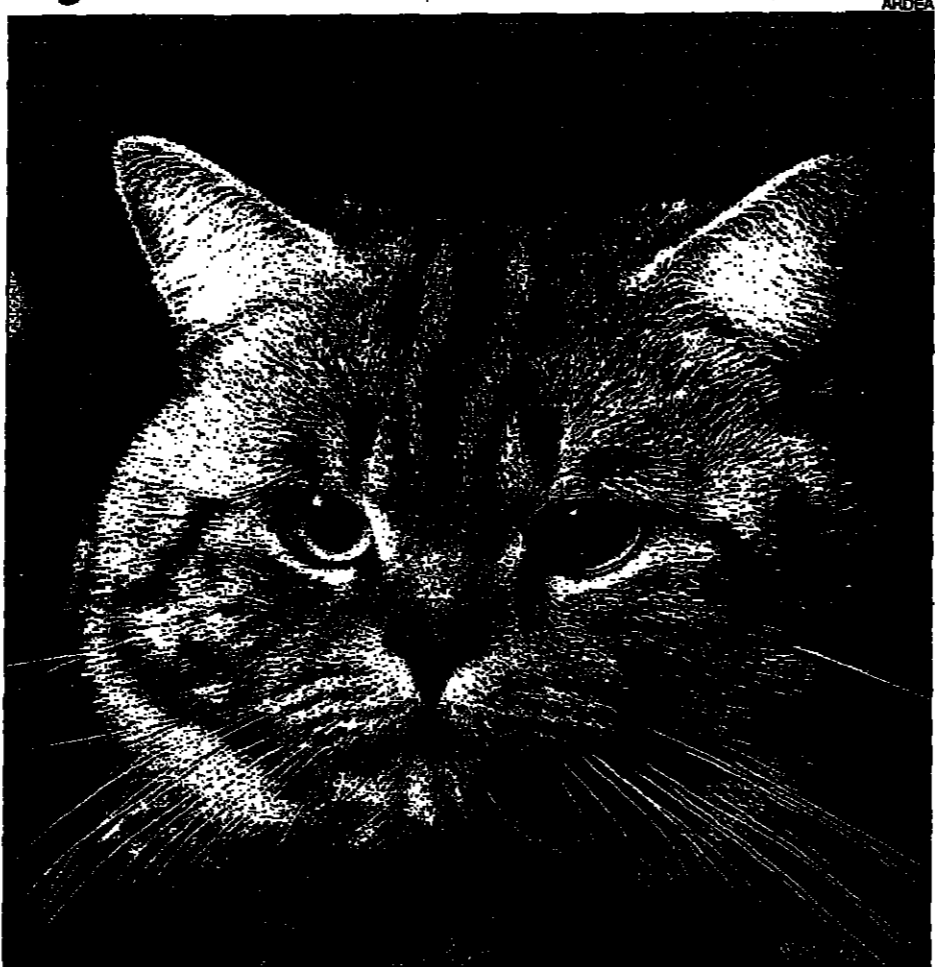
but were told they could watch or ignore the animal as they wished.

The scientists will report their findings next week at a seminar in Prague, entitled *Human-Companion Animal Communication: Understandings and Misunderstandings*. They found there were significant differences between the men who disliked cats and those who liked them. This, in turn, had a significant effect on the cats' behaviour.

The cat-lovers spent far longer looking at the cat, even when it was ignoring them by grooming or lolling around. The men who disliked cats tended to ignore the animal, looking at it only when it approached.

The cats spent more time looking at the men who liked them and would glance and stare at them more frequently. They were more likely to sit facing the cat-lovers and would turn away from the men who disliked them and put their tails up.

The researchers concluded in their findings that cats were more likely to attempt friendly contact with people who liked them than with those who did not.



Researchers found cats responded best to those who showed an interest in them

# Blair links News at Ten change to downmarket slide

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

TONY BLAIR declared his opposition to *News at Ten* being moved as the ITV companies asked the Independent Television Commission yesterday for permission to replace it with news at 6.30pm and 11pm.

His spokesman said that the Prime Minister "supports *News at Ten* staying where it is because it has got a deserved reputation for reporting often complex political, international and other issues in a very digestible and even-handed way".

Mr Blair would find it "regrettable" if the ITV decision led to further marginalising of news or further move downmarket by ITV. His opposition was reminiscent of the reservations expressed by John Major as Prime Minister when an attempt was made to move the news bulletin in 1993, a concern that was backed by the late John Smith,

the Labour leader. ITV said yesterday that the move was part of creating a more competitive evening schedule to win back lost viewers. It promised to offer better comedy and drama, regular top-class sport and more news overall.

Under the plan, which has to be agreed by the ITC, there would be a 30-minute 6.30pm news programme presented by Trevor McDonald, followed by a half-hour programme at 11pm "with enhanced international, parliamentary and regional reporting".

In a sop to the politicians, ITV is offering one-minute bulletins to cover important breaking news, including important divisions in the House of Commons. It also proposes a *News at Ten* for ITV2, the new digital channel. A news and current affairs programme like CBS's *60 Min-*

utes, beginning at 10pm, will be introduced on ITV.

Richard Eyre, the ITV chief executive, said last night that ITV's evening schedule had not change for 30 years, even though the broadcasting environment had changed beyond recognition. "We are taking the main evening news to the real battlefield for viewers — the early evening," he said.

The ITV companies have unanimously backed the proposal and the signs are that the ITC will be more amenable than last time, soon after the start of the new ITV licences. Opposition is also likely to be more muted in ITN, which has become a much more commercial body in the past five years, providing news programmes for all commercial terrestrial television round the clock.

Between 1994 and 1997 ITV peaktime share declined from 44.3 per cent to 38.8 per cent.

# Fur flies over professor's feline stew

From Richard Owen in Rome

CAT-LOVERS be warned: stick to spaghetti when you are next in Vicenza. Pet-owners in the prosperous, well-fed and normally rather staid town in the Veneto region are in uproar over a cookery book that includes a recipe for a local delicacy — casserole of cat.

Enraged animal rights activists yesterday condemned Terenzio Sartore, whose *The Traditional Food and Cooking of Vicenza* offers a scholarly guide to local cuisine. Professor Sartore, 70, a local historian, said his book had not even reached the shops. But advance copies have caused an outcry and he is reported to be in hiding.

The book describes tasty but unexceptional recipes for traditional Veneto favourites such as polenta or pork and bean soup. Some of the dishes, admittedly, require a strong stomach — polenta with cow's lung (*polenta e coradela*), for example, or cheese with worms (in local dialect, *formajo coi bai*).

But the recipe that has caused most offence is *il gato in teca* (literally, cat in a pot). There was widespread disbelief yesterday over Professor Sartore's revelation that people have a tradition of

eating cats in Vicenza, which is the centre of Italy's textile and computer industries and boasts many 16th-century buildings by Andrea Palladio.

"Vicenza will forever be dubbed the city not of Palladian architecture, but of cat-eaters," said *Corriere della Sera*, the national daily. Italians — a nation of meat-eaters — are used to more unusual fare, including hare, rabbit and wild boar, but delicacies common in Roman times, such as dormice (fed on acorns and chestnuts), have mercifully died out. However, Professor Sartore said cat stew had long been a Vicenza favourite, "probably as a substitute for rabbit, when rabbit was scarce". His book continues: "It is similar in texture and taste, and, if anything, less stringy. From time to time our housewives cook it, perhaps to justify our past reputation as cat-eaters."

The book gives no instructions on how to catch your cat, but offers a detailed account of how to prepare and cook it. According to Professor Sartore, cat is best eaten in the winter — skinned, gutted, headless and stewed. In the old days, he said, cat meat was tenderised by being soaked in water and vinegar or being left in the snow for several days.

"After tenderising, you cut it into pieces and brown it with butter, oil, garlic and parsley. Then you stew it in white wine for two hours with salt and pepper, sage leaves, cloves, rosemary and bay leaves."

Gianluca Felicetti, of the Italian Anti-Vissection League, said it was considering legal action against Professor Sartore and the publishers. "The ill-treatment and killing of cats is expressly forbidden under a 1991 law."



"My compliments to the chef"

Leading article, page 21

# Police dog with nose for trouble

By Tim Jones

POLICE forces are to be told that if they really want to get their man, they should abandon German shepherd dogs and replace them with bloodhounds. A six-month trial by Essex Police has proved that when it comes to following a scent, the breed has a far finer nose than Alsations.

PC Malcolm Fish, a dog handling expert with the force, said he has been staggered by the abilities of his two dogs, Sherlock and Morse, who are eight months old.

PC Fish, who was funded by an £11,000 grant from the Government, will be asking the Home Office to recommend bloodhounds to every force in the country.

Where foot patrols and a helicopter had failed, Sherlock followed the 27-hour-old trail of a confused pensioner and found her in a wood after tracking her through fields and roads. PC Fish said: "Their tracking abilities are out of this world. The person they are after does not even have to touch the ground."

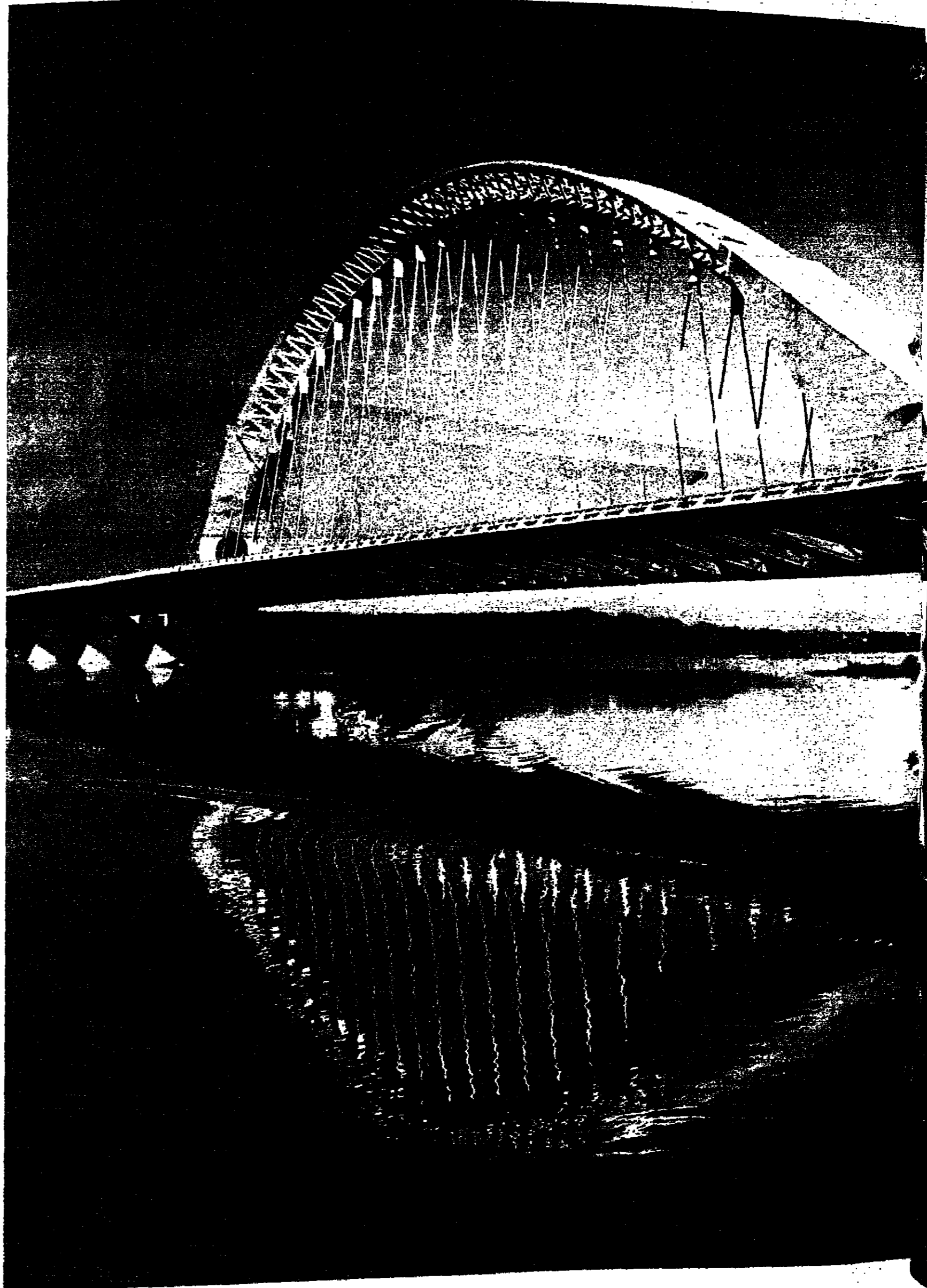
# Spice adds kick to weak beers

By Nick Nuttall

A SPICE from Asia may be the key to making low-alcohol drinks taste like the real thing. Beers that contain only a trace of alcohol may be safe to have as "one for the road", but lack a bit of kick. Now a study of galangal, a ginger-like spice, has opened the possibility of making low-alcohol drinks taste more alcoholic.

A Swiss team led by Markus Gautschi, of the Givaudan Roure Research in Dubendorf, purified the active ingredient in galangal. In tests, volunteers reported that the substance made low-alcohol drinks taste as if they contained more alcohol.

The effect works only if some alcohol is present. Galangal seems to enhance the taste of alcohol on the tongue. There are limits, however. Reporting on the research, presented at a meeting of the American Chemical Society in Boston, Massachusetts, the *New Scientist* magazine said: "Gautschi says that they can't make a non-alcoholic beer taste like real ale."



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# Police paid out record £10m over cases linked to Stalker

Committee of MPs criticises force for keeping figure secret from public, writes Richard Ford

A POLICE force paid out more than £10 million in damages and costs to settle four claims of malicious prosecution. It was disclosed yesterday.

The payout, the biggest by a British force, followed allegations by Kevin Taylor, a Manchester businessman, that his prosecution for fraud was part of a campaign to discredit his friend John Stalker, the former Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester.

The total costs arising from the four cases, which had previously been concealed from the public because of a confidentiality clause, were disclosed in a report by the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee. David Wilmot, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, gave the figure in a letter to MPs after they demanded to know the total paid in the cases of Mr Taylor and three others prosecuted with him for an alleged bank fraud.

Mr Wilmot said the sum

was £10.5 million, which included the damages and costs for the four men and Greater Manchester Police. It is understood that £2.3 million was paid in damages to Mr Taylor, 66, a property developer from Helmshore, Lancashire.

The committee's report says: "This seems to us to be an enormous sum and, even if, in this particular case, most of the sum was paid by an insurance company, it serves to emphasise the importance of the issues involved."

The payouts were made when Greater Manchester Police gave up defending allegations of malicious prosecution after being told by Municipal Mutual Insurance that almost £6 million had been spent on costs and that their legal insurance cover was running out.

The prosecution case against Mr Taylor was withdrawn in January 1990 after seven weeks, when the judge instructed the jury to return not guilty verdicts. Mr Taylor,



Stalker resigned from the Manchester force

Derek Britton, an accountant, Terence Bowley, formerly corporate business manager with Cooperative Bank in Manchester, and Vincent McCann, a quantity surveyor, had denied attempting to obtain a bank overdraft dishonestly.

Mr Taylor claimed that he had been maliciously prosecuted for fraud as part of a campaign to discredit Mr Stalker, who investigated alle-

gations of a "shoot to kill" policy by the RUC.

Mr Stalker was removed from his leadership of the inquiry and suspended from duty in 1986. He was reinstated but was not allowed to resume his investigation in Northern Ireland and he resigned from the Greater Manchester force the following year.

The MPs' report is critical of the decision to keep the payout secret, especially as neither Mr Taylor nor the insurance company requested confidentiality. "The fact that a payment may have been made under an insurance policy rather than directly from police funds does not in itself justify the withholding of the information from the public," it says. "We consider that it is wrong for them to be made subject to requirements of confidentiality."

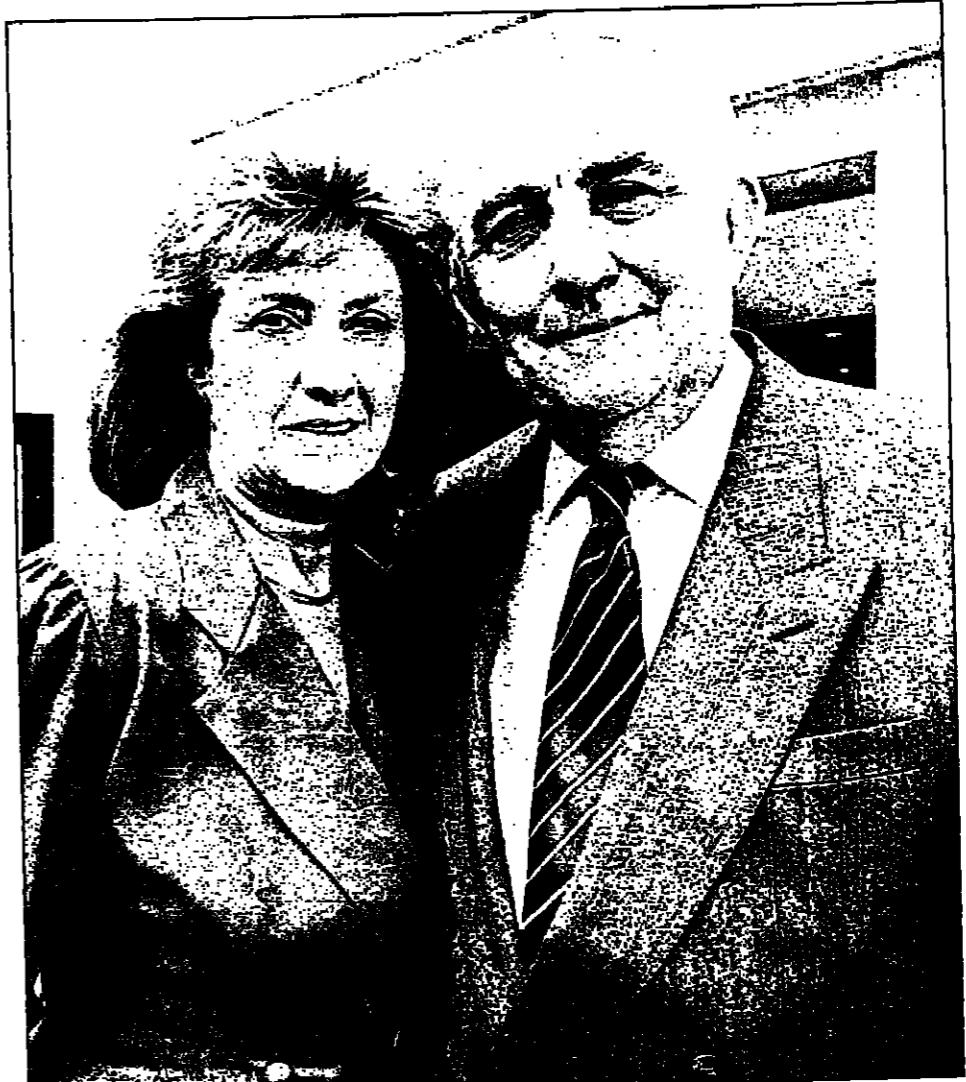
The committee says that the public had the right to know what happened so that they could form their own judg-

ment on the way their police force had acted.

The report also criticises the fact that only a subcommittee of Greater Manchester Police Authority was involved in discussions leading to the decision to settle the case out of court. "We were surprised that all the members of the police authority were not kept informed of the progress of the case and the outcome."

It says that the arguments for public disclosure outweigh those for secrecy and recommends that all 43 police forces in England and Wales take steps to ensure that in future payouts for civil claims are made public.

Since settling the Taylor case out of court, Greater Manchester Police has changed its policy and now meets the first £250,000 of individual claims from its own budget. The force has denied that this is a requirement of insurance companies because of the large payout to Mr Taylor.



Kevin Taylor, who claimed malicious police prosecution, and his wife, Beryl

## Man who fought against smears

By RUSSELL JENKINS

KEVIN TAYLOR is the last and most enduring victim of the RUC's alleged shoot-to-kill policy in the early 1980s.

The property developer, now 66, lost an estimated £20 million fortune, his reputation and his health because of his friendship with John Stalker, then Greater Manchester Deputy Chief Constable. His name was vilified as the police officer's enemies sought to discredit Mr Stalker and bring his inquiry in Northern Ireland to an end.

On May 29, 1986, Mr Stalker was removed from the investigation and relieved of his duties as deputy to James Anderson, the Chief Constable. He was cleared of allegations of "associating with known criminals".

Mr Taylor and Mr Stalker had known each other since the 1970s, when their children attended the same school. As soon as Mr Stalker heard that he was under investigation for fraud, he severed his links with his friend. Mr Taylor was prosecuted in 1990, ac-

used of defrauding the Co-operative Bank of £200,000. The case against him collapsed but by then he had lost his luxurious lifestyle. He lived on state benefits and had to move from a five-bedroom house to a terrace facing a busy road in Baxenden, a former weaving village in Lancashire.

He was determined, however, to prove that the Greater Manchester Police's prosecution was malicious. At Liverpool Crown Court in June 1995, he claimed that the charges were designed to discredit Mr Stalker. Mr Taylor finally accepted an out-of-court settlement of more than £2 million. He had claimed £10 million.

At the time he said: "Once again the Establishment has won because, if I did not accept the offer my team thought was fair, then I would have lost legal aid."

Mr Taylor was on holiday yesterday in Majorca with his family and unable to comment on the latest twist to the saga.

## Crime defeats shopkeeper after 64 years

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES

TEENAGE thugs have succeeded where the Luftwaffe failed. For 64 years Frank Eddolls kept his corner shop open through war and peace. But now he is shutting up shop for good after being robbed for the 235th time.

Crime was rare when Mr Eddolls opened a newsagent's shop in 1934. But over the past few years he has been bludgeoned with an iron bar and attacked with a baseball bat, and has lost count of the number of times he has been held up at knife and gunpoint.

Mr Eddolls, 87, said yesterday: "I used to run after them, but I can't any more because I was hit across the legs with a baseball bat. I hate to give in to these cowards because it makes them the winners, but things are just too rough." In an effort to protect himself he has installed three security cameras and a panic alarm linked to the local police station.

Mr Eddolls earned the reputation of Britain's most robbed shopkeeper after he began keeping a diary of incidents in his corner shop in Southville, a suburb of Bristol.

When he opened for business in the summer of 1934, cheese was 10d a pound, sugar 5d a pound, milk 4d a pint and eggs 2d each. Shoplifting was virtually unheard of. During the war Mr Eddolls defied German air raids and opened every day to serve workers from nearby munitions factories.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the nearest he came to a criminal was a schoolboy who grabbed a boiled sweet and fled. But by the late 1970s shoplifting had become commonplace.

His diary of thefts and robberies, begun in 1981, makes grim reading. In 1991 he spent 13 weeks in hospital after being hit with an iron

bar. Three years later he was back in hospital, where he spent 12 weeks after being kicked and beaten by three youths.

Mr Eddolls, a divorcee, said yesterday: "They all want something for nothing and most are either drunk or high on drugs. They see the shop as an easy target. The level of violence has got higher and higher and the age of those prepared to use it gets younger and younger."

"Even at the height of the Blitz, with death and destruction all around us, people would not dream of descending to such violence and anarchy. We had respect for each other and treated each other with dignity. Of course there was the odd shoplifter, but there was never this violence and hatred."

A spokeswoman for the National Federation of Retail Newsagents said: "It is appalling that someone who has provided vital services for so many years feels he cannot continue. The federation regrets people being put out of business in this way, but it is a sign of the times."

"Robberies are on the increase in shops and last year there was an increase of 40 per cent in physical violence against staff. Small shops like newsagents are opening longer hours in the face of increased competition and unfortunately are seen as soft targets."

Avon and Somerset Constabulary said that over the years a number of people had been prosecuted for stealing from Mr Eddolls. A spokesman said: "It's unfortunate that certain people will take advantage of the elderly. When Mr Eddolls has reported incidents to us they have been fully investigated and people have been charged with offences committed."

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# Freed Scots Guards look ahead to uncertain future

By MARTIN FLETCHER, SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND PETER FOSTER

### Fisher and Wright have lost none of their military bearing, but dismissal remains a strong possibility

AFTER spending six years in jail for the killing of a Belfast teenager in 1992, Guardsmen Jim Fisher and Mark Wright appeared to have lost none of the military bearing for which their regiment is famous when they were released yesterday.

Dressed in dark civilian suits and black shoes, shouldered back, the two Scots Guards strode out in time with each other to meet photographers at Catterick Garrison in Yorkshire after being reunited with their families.

Under the watchful eye of a lieutenant-colonel, the pair stood obediently for the cameras, but, like their colleagues on public duty in London, stared straight ahead, ignoring a barrage of questions about their future.

Fisher, 30, from Ayrshire, and Wright, 25, from Arbroath, were quietly released from Maghaberry prison at 8am yesterday. The Army drove them straight to RAF Aldergrove, near Belfast, where they were put on a military plane to Catterick.

There they were given medical checks and briefings on their future. They will now go on leave while an army board decides whether to dismiss them. Sources said dismissal was a real possibility. It is

understood there is less sympathy within the Army for the pair than for other soldiers who have found themselves in similar positions.

Private Ian Thain and Lance Corporal Lee Clegg, two other British soldiers convicted of murders in Northern Ireland, were allowed to stay in the Army. But in Clegg's case his guilt was contested and earlier this year he had his conviction overturned.

Fisher and Wright shot unarmed Peter McBride in the back as he ran away after being stopped for questioning in the New Lodge area of North Belfast. Lord Justice Kelly rejected the soldiers' claim that they believed the 18-year-old was carrying a "coffee-jar" bomb.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who agreed to review their cases in July, decided to free them on licence just days before the first terrorist prisoners are to be released from the Maze under the Good Friday peace accord. She acknowledged the connection, saying the guardsmen were in Northern Ireland "as a consequence of that terrorism and committed the offence while on duty to counter it".

She also emphasised that they had each spent nearly six

years behind bars, and that the murder was not premeditated. Clegg served three years and Thain 26 months.

Fisher's and Wright's convictions still stand, and being freed on licence means they will be jailed instantly if deemed a danger to the public.

A telephone call from Dr Mowlam at 8.20am to Fisher's family in Ayr ended their six years of uncertainty. They said they were overjoyed and were counting the hours until he arrived home. Fisher's mother, Sheila, 47, said: "We are absolutely delighted. This is long overdue, but now we are just waiting to speak to Jim." She said the homecoming



Peter McBride: shot as he ran from guardsmen

would be a quiet family affair.

"This is no time for a party. We will be glad to have Jim home, but we have to think of the McBrides. They will be going through a difficult time and we have to consider their feelings." A march scheduled to take place in Edinburgh on Saturday to protest at the men's continuing imprisonment was cancelled.

The Fisher and Wright Release Group, whose patron is Martin Bell, the Independent MP for Tatton, will now be wound up. "What they do with the rest of their lives is up to them," Mr Bell said.

However, some in its ranks, including members of the Scots Guards Association, are anxious to help the soldiers if they decide to appeal against their convictions.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said it was his "sincere hope that all parties will accept the decision of the Northern Ireland Secretary and allow the matter to be closed". Andrew MacKay, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said the guardsmen had "more than served an adequate sentence for the dreadful error of judgment they made". Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's sec-

urity spokesman, said that the two men should have been released far earlier.

However, Peter McBride's father, also named Peter, condemned their release at his home in West Belfast. He said that Dr Mowlam had released the pair on the eve of President Clinton's visit and at a time of intense political activity in Northern Ireland in an attempt to prevent trouble on the streets. Clegg's release in July 1995 triggered rioting in Belfast.

Mr McBride added that, unless the Army discharged them, "no matter where they go, no matter if it's Germany, Canada, England, anywhere, we will picket outside their camp and tell people there are convicted murderers in there".

Mr McBride said Dr Mowlam had promised that the guardsmen would not be freed before the terrorist prisoners, and he accused her of insensitive timing, with tomorrow being the sixth anniversary of the murder. She had not informed them of the releases until they had taken place, though she had telephoned on Tuesday to say an announcement was coming.

Sinn Fein also condemned the releases. Gerry Kelly, a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, said that the decision was "evidence of the arrogant, colonial mentality which has constantly treated Irish people as second-class".



Mark Wright, front, and Jim Fisher after their release from jail yesterday

## Clash on why teenager was shot in back

By PETER FOSTER

SUPPORTERS of Fisher and Wright have won the battle for the two soldiers' freedom, but some still want a retrial, arguing that the patrol commander, Lance-Sergeant Mark Swift, was not called to give evidence at the original hearing.

Others, including their defence lawyers, believe that Sergeant Swift's testimony would not have helped at the trial and would not persuade the Criminal Cases Review Commission to reopen the case.

The 1995 trial at Belfast Crown Court, before Lord Justice Kelly, heard that Fisher and Wright were on patrol guarding an RUC house-search operation in the predominantly republican New Lodge area of Belfast when Peter McBride walked towards them. According to Fisher and Wright, the slim 18-year-old approached the group on Trainfield Street with something hidden under his jacket and was stopped by Sergeant Swift, who asked his name, address and other details in what was known as a "P-Check".

The address McBride gave, 5 Templar House, was the same one as the RUC were searching for stolen goods. His suspicions raised, Sergeant Swift told McBride he was going to search him. But before he could do this, the court heard, McBride tore out the sergeant's radio earpiece and ran off through a garden, with the two guardsmen in pursuit.

Fisher and Wright told the court that as McBride ran away a white plastic bag "appeared in his hand", which seemed to contain a solid, cylindrical object like a coffee jar, which the IRA was then using to make homemade grenades.

After chasing McBride down four streets, shouting warnings to him to stop or they would fire, the two soldiers dropped to one knee on Upper Meadow Street and shot the teenager twice in the back at a range of approximately 90 yards. He stumbled through a house and was found slumped in an alleyway, where he died shortly afterwards. No bomb was found.

In interviews with the RUC, both Fisher and Wright said they had shot McBride under the "yellow card" rules of engagement because they believed that their lives were in danger. They gave different reasons for that belief. Fisher said he thought McBride was carrying a coffee-jar bomb and was enticing him into an ambush, while Wright said he thought McBride had fired a shot at him, but later admitted he was mistaken and had been confused by Fisher's first shot.

It is agreed by all sides that the outcome of the trial turned on whether Sergeant Swift had searched McBride before he ran away. If McBride had

been searched in Trainfield Street, the judge pointed out, the soldiers could not have reasonably believed, as they claimed, that McBride was carrying a bomb or a gun. The judge concluded: "It was only if they had not seen the bag in Trainfield Street could Fisher found his defence, with Wright's support, that he believed it contained a coffee-jar bomb."

In the event, the judge dismissed the soldiers as liars who had concocted the story of the coffee-jar bomb in their defence and chose instead to believe local witnesses who said that they had seen Sergeant Swift searching McBride for several minutes before he ran away.

In a debate in the House of Lords last June, Lord Campbell of Alloway, a QC, claimed that Sergeant Swift's testimony, sworn on oath and deposited in the Lords library, merited the soldiers' immedi-

### THE EVIDENCE AT THE TRIAL

ate release and a review by the Secretary of State, adding: "The findings of fact to support this conviction were fundamentally flawed... their convictions were a grave and manifest injustice."

But lawyers who worked on the case say that Sergeant Swift was not called as a witness because his evidence was not persuasive. In his affidavit, Sergeant Swift says that McBride approached with something hidden under his jacket walking "extremely fast" and looking "shifty" yet, despite an intelligence briefing that morning that emphasised the threat of coffee-jar bombs, he did not search him. At the trial, the judge said he did not believe that Sergeant Swift would not have searched McBride under such circumstances.

Secondly, if McBride was running away from the soldiers with what looked like a coffee-jar bomb, why were no radio signals alerting other soldiers to the danger ever found in the radio log?

Furthermore, when McBride was lying wounded in the alleyway, why, if Fisher and Wright believed that he was carrying a bomb, were no warnings given to other soldiers and an RUC officer who attended the dying man to give first aid? Again the judge chose not to believe the soldiers.

The judge could not have been clearer about the culpability of the two men's actions. Sir Ludovic Kennedy, writing in *The Spectator*, said the Lord Justice Kelly would "no doubt... have preferred to give a verdict of manslaughter" if the law had allowed him that option, which it did not.

Yet the judge said: "I doubt if a verdict of manslaughter would fit my findings in this case."

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# Major raises fears on 'haste' over terror laws

By NICHOLAS WATT  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR last night voiced doubts about the Government's decision to rush through the Northern Ireland anti-terrorism legislation and to tack on measures to crack down on Middle East terrorists based in Britain.

The former Prime Minister pledged his support for the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill, but warned that it "showed the signs of haste" and might eventually prove to be defective.

The Bill is designed to toughen up anti-terrorist measures by making it easier for a court to convict a suspected terrorist of membership of one of four groups opposed to the peace process. The evidence of a senior police officer would be admissible as evidence and courts would be able to draw inferences from the refusal of suspects to answer questions.

The Bill would also crack down on terrorists, mainly from the Middle East, who use Britain as a base. A conspiracy to commit a terrorist crime abroad could be tried in Britain.

During the Second Reading of the Bill, Mr Major said: "We are being asked to endorse a policy the Government has speedily brought together. It is almost bound to have loopholes. It would be a miracle if it did not have loopholes."

Mr Major said that the

## THE DEBATE

haste was understandable because of the atrocity at Omagh. "However worthy the motives of the Government we do have a duty to ensure workable, practical and credible legislation going through this House," he added.

Mr Major said the provision in the Bill targeting groups which plot overseas attacks was "a very difficult and complex area to define". He added: "The objective is laudable and I thoroughly support the objective. But the definition of these groups is very tricky. We should legislate here with very great care. It would have been better if we had done so with more time for consultation and consideration because we would, I believe, have produced more effective legislation."

Mr Major's intervention came after MPs from every political party rebelled against the Government's handling of the Bill. At the end of a debate on the time-table of it, 90 MPs voted against the Government, with 317 MPs voting in favour, a Government majority of 227.

The rebels included 16 Labour MPs, 39 Tories, including the former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath, 19 Liberal Democrats, and two tellers.

Richard Shepherd, the Conservative MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, said that Parliamentary procedures had been corrupted by the Government's decision to rush

through the legislation. He said: "This is no way for the House to do its business. The Government is acting manipulatively. We have been knee-jerked here. We have to have pride in our processes because in our processes we defend our liberties in the face of these terrorists."

Tony Benn, the Labour MP for Chesterfield, said that by publishing the Bill in draft form on Tuesday night the Government had given MPs no time to consult their constituents and outside experts. He said: "We are being used to rubber-stamp what the Government has decided to do. What a way to treat Parliament, as if we're the Supreme Soviet just summoned to carry out the instructions of the Central Committee. Whatever the merits of the Bill, it is an absolute affront to this House to tell us that by tonight we have to pass this Bill."

Robert Marshall-Andrews, QC, the Labour MP for Medway, said that the bill had been so badly drafted he could not decipher many of its clauses which had a "profound effect on the liberty" of people. "I find it utterly incomprehensible. One of the reasons is the unnecessary speed with which it was drafted."

Alan Clark, the Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea, said: "This is an example of the contempt in which the Prime Minister himself holds this chamber."

Peter Brooke, the Conservative MP for the Cities of London and Westminster who



Mr Blair tells MPs yesterday that the Bill is necessary to continue the peace process

is a former Northern Ireland Secretary, said that the clauses dealing with conspiracy to commit offences abroad should be deleted.

His comments were echoed by Donald Anderson, the Labour MP for Swansea East who is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. He said: "I accept the symbolism that the Dail [Irish Parliament] and our own Parliament march together in respect of terrorism. I am less happy to accept the symbolism that we have to rush our proceedings through because of the visit of the President of the US to Ireland."

Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the House, insisted that the Government was not dealing with the Bill in an

unprecedented manner. Frontbenchers from the three main parties had all signed the motion setting out the time-table arrangements for the Bill, she said.

At this point Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat Chief Whip, interrupted Mrs Beckett to say that he had decided to remove his name from the motion. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said the "tough but proportionate" Bill was intended to respond to the carnage in Omagh and to the threat posed by international terrorism. Opening the Second Reading of the Bill, Mr Straw said: "The peace process is moving forward with the overwhelming support of both communities in the North and of the people of the Republic. But small splinter groups have shown themselves ready to resort to appalling and indiscriminate destruction in a desperate effort to throw that process off course."

The Home Secretary added that the "devastating" bombings of the United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the bombing of the Planet Hollywood restaurant in Cape Town were further reminders of the wider threat. Mr Straw said: "We have to send the clearest message to international terrorist groups that we in the United King-

dom will not allow this country to be used as a basis for plotting and supporting terrorist operations abroad."

Mr Straw said that the United Kingdom had strong powers to combat terrorism, but added that it was important to remedy practical deficiencies which come to light. He told MPs that the Bill specifically attacks four terrorist groups — the Real IRA, the Continuity IRA, the Irish National Liberation Army and the Loyalist Volunteer Force — which either have no ceasefire or have declared ceasefires which have not been tested.

The Home Secretary said that the legislation was designed to address the problems in prosecuting for membership of such organisations. The Bill would also give courts new powers to seize the assets of convicted terrorists if the court was satisfied that it had been used by the four banned groups.

Mr Straw said: "I believe this new provision offers a valuable reinforcement: emphasising the gravity of the offence and pulling away the practical props these groups need to support their evil work." He reassured MPs that the judicial process remained "paramount".

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# MPs brushed aside for the bigger picture

RIDDELL  
ON POLITICS

POLITICAL expediency and convenience have, as so often, taken precedence over proper parliamentary scrutiny. Yesterday evening's protest by backbench MPs against the speed with which the emergency anti-terrorist legislation is being rushed through in two days is a classic example of the frustrated impotence of the legislature in face of a determined executive.

The strength of feeling among MPs was genuine and has not previously been seen in this Parliament. But, as often on these occasions, there was an element of unreality. No one seriously expected the Government to amend the timetable for considering the Bill, let alone the detailed proposals. But the breadth of the protest was striking: 90 MPs, including two tellers, was far more than the usual awkward squad. Among the speakers against the tight timetable, Peter Brooke or Gwyneth Dunwoody would never be counted in that category. There was a sense of "we've been mucked around too long".

The protesters have a case, at least over procedure, even if not on the substance of the Bill. There have been all too many examples of hurried legislation turning out to be bad legislation — from the original Official Secrets Act to the Dangerous Dogs Act.

The Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill is 14 pages long and has profound implications for civil liberties, not least because it covers the activities of terrorists in general rather than just Northern Ireland. Yet MPs and the public only saw it late on Tuesday and many members were, in practice, able to consider the details only when they returned to Westminster yesterday.

Truncating all Commons stages into one sitting day ensures that there will not be proper scrutiny. The Bill should have been published last week and the Commons and Lords should each have had two days on debate on

it. The trouble is that MPs tend to sound whining and pious when they talk about the rights of the Commons.

The public may, in theory, favour stronger scrutiny, but, in practice, it would rather see tough action against terrorism. Jack Straw made a persuasive case for the substance of the Bill in his speech. Painstaking and good-humoured, he was the ideal minister to deal with the worries.

The Bill is narrowly focused with clear safeguards to protect against the miscarriages of justice that have occurred too often in the past on Irish terrorist matters. Mr Straw claimed that the provisions were consistent with the Bill incorporating the European Convention of Human Rights into British law.

All this is really secondary for the Government. For Tony Blair, there is a much bigger picture than the rumblings at Westminster. He made plain that one of the main reasons for the timing of the Bill is to match what the Irish Government is doing this week. If Dublin is prepared to act, London cannot be seen to lag behind, particularly with President Clinton visiting Northern Ireland today.

The Bill is really intended to draw a line between Sinn Fein/IRA and renegade republican groups. Mr Blair distinguished between groups which had broad support and those which had not, leading independent Unionist Robert McCartney to talk about "good" and "wicked" terrorists. Mr Blair, and now apparently David Trimble, are putting their faith, if not entire trust, in the ability of Gerry Adams to deliver. Yesterday's Bill is one part of that broader strategy, with Parliament merely an onlooker.

PETER RIDDELL

# New Bill will deal with 'evil men who seek to wreck peace'

By POLLY NEWTON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

## PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

NEW anti-terrorism laws put forward by the Government were "a proportionate and targeted response" to the violence of the Omagh bombers, Tony Blair said yesterday.

In a statement to the House of Commons, the Prime Minister said that the aim of the legislation was to make it easier to prove membership of illegal organisations such as the Real IRA. Speaking as Parliament began its two-day emergency sitting, Mr Blair said that the Bill would deal with "small and evil groups of violent men who seek to wreck the hopes for peace which the great majority yearn for and have voted for".

He said the attack in

Omagh was a deliberate attempt to wreck the Good Friday peace agreement by a small group of extremists with no moral or political support.

"The aim of the bombers was not just to kill innocent people but was to strike at the heart of the peace process. The best response we can give is not therefore to abandon the Good Friday agreement but to carry it forward vigorously, to deny them the very objective they seek, and to continue to work for a better future for Northern Ireland that puts the past behind it."

In a direct message to the bombers, Mr Blair said: "You sought to wreck the agreement, and you failed. You

sought to divide the community, and you failed. You sought to win new support, and you failed. You failed because violence and terror represent the past in Northern Ireland, and democracy and peace represent the future."

He said that the Bill would also enact "long-held plans" to outlaw conspiracy within the UK to commit offences in other countries. The recent "horrific" bomb attacks on the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and the explosion at a restaurant in Cape Town, had proved that terrorism was an increasing threat worldwide.

"Britain must play an active part in (the) international battle against terrorism and avoid becoming any kind of haven for international terrorists and their supporters," Mr Blair said.

The Conservative leader, William Hague, expressed his party's support for the Bill, but warned: "We do inevitably worry about the effectiveness and the operation of any legislation that is so hastily conceived and executed." He called on the Government to publish a review of the effectiveness of the new measures before they came back to Parliament to be renewed in a year's time.

Mr Hague said that it had been a mistake for the Government to give up its reserve power of interment — a power still retained in the Irish Republic. Mr Blair said

that he had not ruled out the re-introduction of interment, but believed that such a step could provoke a backlash in parts of the Northern Ireland community.

He told Mr Hague: "I believe that... as a result of having targeted this very carefully, we have actually steered the right course, which is between a knee-jerk reaction that introduces measures that aren't really thought through, and measures that will give us practical help and assistance in trying to deal with those people who are members of the relevant proscribed organisations."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that his party would maintain the 25-year-old tradition of cross-party unity on Ulster. "Perhaps out of the horrors of Omagh, we are at last going to see a real and historic opportunity for the people of Ireland to come together to build a peaceful future."

Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, called for measures requiring the Royal Ulster Constabulary to tape record interviews with suspects and ensuring the presence of a solicitor during interviews. "If we get this wrong, we shall end up creating a political base for a tiny isolated sect that at the moment has no political base."

Mr Blair said that it would become a legal requirement to tape record police interviews and the European Convention on Human Rights stipulated that suspects must have access to a solicitor.

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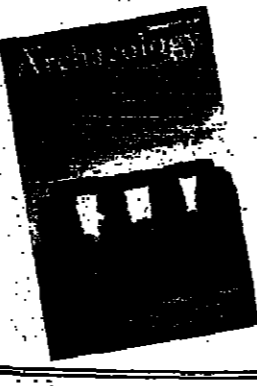
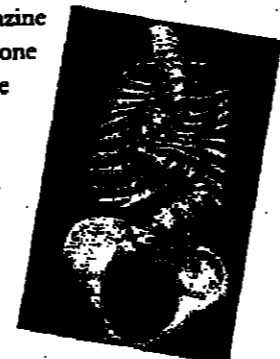
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# Parents to be compensated for child agency blunders

Watchdog says the CSA is failing to deal with complaints and ignoring letters, reports Alexandra Freen

THE Child Support Agency has been ordered to pay £83,000 in compensation to 148 complainants and to apologise to a further 38. A government watchdog said scores of single mothers and absent fathers had been "grossly inconvenienced" by the mishandling of their cases. In her first report, Anne Parker, the Independent Case Examiner, demanded "real measurable changes" in performance over the next three years and the introduction of a more sensitive attitude among staff. Ms Parker was appointed by the Government at the end of 1996 to investigate CSA maladministration. She said: "They do not handle their complaints at all well. They don't take the opportunity to put things right. They sometimes don't listen to what people say and they don't reply to letters... Even when mistakes are acknowledged, apologies are grudging." The remarks will add impetus to the Government's "root and branch review" of the CSA, announced in July, and proposals to replace its complicated maintenance formula with a simple fixed-rate levy of 15 per cent of the absent parent's net income. In her first year in office, Ms

Parker received 1,087 complaints. Two thirds were from absent parents, with the remainder from parents with custody of children. She upheld 93 per cent of the 150 cases that she investigated in detail. The biggest compensation order was for £18,138, to a woman who received no maintenance payments from her ex-husband for two years after the CSA mistakenly cancelled a court order requiring him to contribute to his child's upkeep. Ms Parker, a former director of social services, criticised the CSA for being slow to implementing her adjudications in individual cases and for putting its own bureaucratic procedures before the needs and feelings of people. "Clients repeatedly tell me that they feel that no one in the organisation will listen to what they have to say, that an interview is almost impossible to arrange, and that there is a lack of ownership amongst agency staff in dealing with their case." One of the biggest problems was the amount of time it took the CSA to deal with even the most simple procedures. The report highlights the case of Mrs A, who supplied her ex-husband's address to the CSA



Anne Parker: demanded "real measurable changes"

in 1993. Nine months passed before he was sent an inquiry form, then it was sent to the wrong address. No further action was taken for a further seven months, when a Welsh version of the inquiry form, which he did not understand, was sent to him. The application had still not been sorted out by 1997. Another problem was the

difficulty in obtaining maintenance payments from absent parents who were self-employed and who could not therefore have the money deducted automatically from their pay. To combat this, Ms Parker recommended greater sharing of information between government bodies, such as the Inland Revenue and the contributions agency. She also recommended that the wording of several forms be improved to avoid misunderstanding and called for more face-to-face meetings between agency officials and clients. Maevae Sherlock, the director of the National Council for One-Parent Families, said the report highlighted the need for reform of the CSA to begin immediately. "Lone parents need a better service now." "The lessons from this, and other reports, must be taken on board so that what we get from this reform is the fair, efficient and properly resourced system that children deserve." The National Association for Child Support Action said that the report highlighted the need for urgent reform of the CSA and a spokesman for the pressure group Families Need Fathers said CSA staff required better training. Mike Isaac, deputy chief executive of the CSA, said that the report would help the agency to address "problem areas and support our programme of improvement to customer service".

# MPs tell ministers to get asset sales right

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

MINISTERS will be told bluntly by MPs today to improve their handling of future asset sales or risk losing the taxpayer hundreds of millions of pounds. The warning coincides with government plans to raise £11 billion over the next three years from the sale of, or creation of public-private partnerships to run, the Royal Mint, London Underground, National Air Traffic Services and the Tote, the state-owned betting organisation. The future of the Post Office is also being considered by ministers. But MPs on the influential Public Accounts Committee are determined that no more costly mistakes should be made by the Government and, in an unusual move, they will publish their

own blueprint today for the future handling of sales of public property. David Davis, the Tory chairman of the committee, said in a statement: "The taxpayers' interest is our primary concern. The lessons are clear, and it is vital that departments take the lessons learned and act on them in future." He said that the privatisation of 150 businesses over the past 20 years, which had raised more than £90 billion, was a success, but he added that too many mistakes had occurred. MPs were incensed by the loss of nearly £1 billion from the sale of the three rolling stock leasing companies. Officials at the Department of Transport had accepted that the timing of the 1996 privatisation might not result in the companies fetching a good

price. But MPs were dismayed that ministers and officials had failed to include a provision to allow the Government a share in profits of any resale of the companies. They also believe that any future share flotations should be in stages, to accrue maximum benefits to the taxpayer. In the case of AEA Technology, if the Department of Trade and Industry had held back 40 per cent of the shares, it could later have fetched more than £200 million. Instead, it went for £90 million. The report states that the DTI had said there had been "no value-for-money grounds" for phasing the sale. The high cost of professional consultants is also highlighted in the report. MPs insist that, in future, their fees be

capped and success fees set at "a reasonable level". They also demand that - other than in exceptional cases - advisers be appointed by full and open competition. They were alarmed by the appointment of the consultants Coopers and Lybrand to act as principal advisers for the sale of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. They were awarded seven contracts valued at £4.4 million without competition when a former senior partner of the firm was on the board of the authority. The committee also calls for greater care in timing. "A demanding timetable has resulted in departments taking decisions in haste or compressing the process so much that it has contributed to failure to maximise the outcome for the taxpayer."

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## Call for new ministry to deal with scientific challenges

By Nick Nuttall

A MINISTRY for science is urgently needed to tackle issues that will face the country in the next century, such as new diseases and genetically modified foods, the retiring president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science said yesterday. Professor Colin Blakemore said the location of the Science Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry aligned science too much with industry and undermined the Government's ability to harness scientific breakthroughs. Professor Blakemore, speaking before the association's annual meeting next week at Cardiff, said all government departments required sound scientific input. "We need a minister of science, separate from the Department of Trade and Industry and having a permanent position on the Cabinet," he said. Only then could Britain encourage research across a wide range of disciplines while helping to co-ordinate policy in response to crises. "Britain's record is not good at co-ordinating scientific responses to challenging circumstances. Take BSE: it is pretty obvious there was a bad co-ordination of scientific advice and effort." He said that government advisers too often put forward a "distilled" view of scientific problems such as BSE or genetically modified crops without giving ministers a full range of opinions. A new ministry could set up ways of balancing and communicating scientific opinion to ministers to help them to formulate policy better. He also welcomed the Government's increased science funding in the Comprehensive Spending Review, and recent praise from Tony Blair in the journal *Science*. Lord Sainsbury, the Minister for Science, said the Government was not keen to support a separate ministry.

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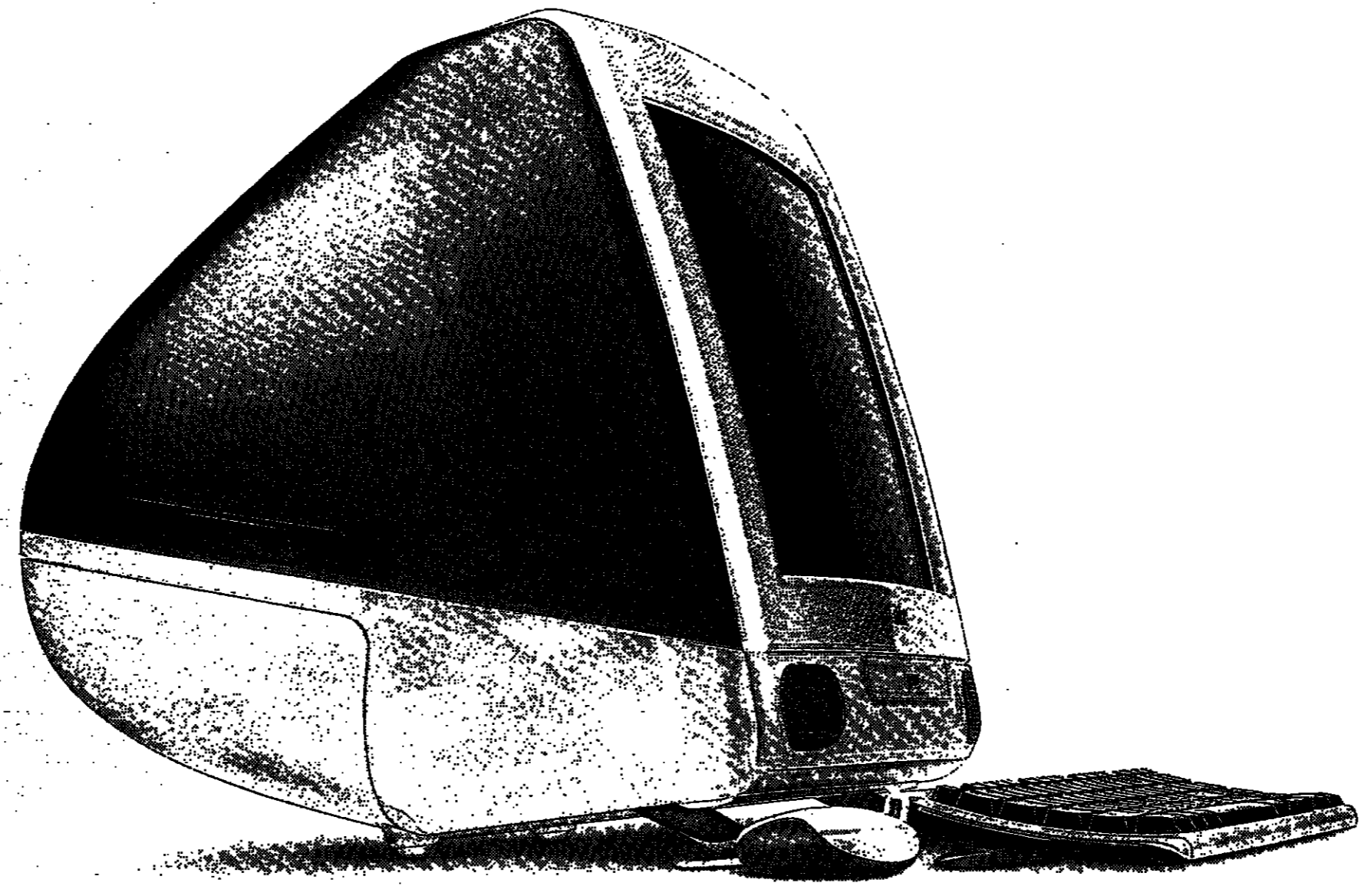
\* Mac & More will be open from 1 min past midnight on 5th September.  
\*\* Micro Anvika, 245 Kesteven Court Road will be open from 1 min past midnight until 5:00 am on 6th September.  
The above does not constitute a full listing of Apple Resellers.



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# US 'relieves guilt' with increased aid for Kosovo refugees

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN PAGARUSA

THE last in a week-long procession of American diplomats and aid officials touring the ravaged valleys of central Kosovo left the province yesterday, promising ethnic Albanian refugees multi-million dollar humanitarian aid.

The evident commitment of the Clinton Administration to warding off a catastrophe in the face of a looming Balkan winter contrasts strongly with the still-confused and low-key European approach to managing the conflict.

Through its humanitarian arm USAid, Washington will spend at least \$11 million in Kosovo by the end of the year — largesse many diplomats suspect reflects American guilt at having failed to galvanise the Contact Group nations into undertaking direct military intervention.

The latest envoy to emerge from the comfort of an air-conditioned and armoured Chevrolet into the heat and stench of villages crammed with the homeless was Hugh Parmer, USAid's head of humanitarian response. He promised a fourfold to fivefold increase

in the amount of food, medicines and materials delivered to the tens of thousands of Albanians already enduring a sharp drop in temperatures as night falls on their makeshift camps.

"Tell them that I'm going to take the message of what has happened to them back to the US," Mr Parmer instructed his interpreter, as they were beset by another gaggle of refugees in the diminishing pocket of territory not yet attacked by the Serb forces, south and east of the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) centre of Malisevo. "They're going to get

food, they're going to get help, they're going to get winter clothing."

Despite the surrounding misery, Mr Parmer's tour encountered Kosovo's usual gamut of absurd and comical incidents. Police units on the road east of Malisevo sported women's necklaces in their epaulettes; later an armoured personnel carrier screamed past with an officer standing in the back wearing a mask and snorkel.

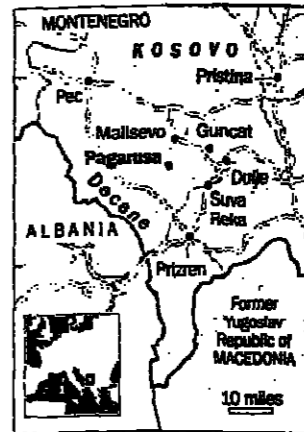
There is little attempt to hide the officially sanctioned looting of the towns and villages abandoned by the Albanians. In Pagarusa, Mr

Parmer, by now too hot to endure his ston, clambered amid the hastily-built refugee shelters, watching women baking bread beneath the open sky. "This is exactly the crisis scenario we've been fearing," admitted one of his medical advisers. "Compared to situations in Africa people have come into this in quite good condition, but as their nutrition levels go down their exposure to disease goes up."

Outside the village the Americans chanced across a few KLA soldiers, a rare sight now in central Kosovo. One of them, wearing an

American M1st Airborne uniform, rode by on horseback; another gap-toothed fighter said he came from Acton in West London.

Mr Parmer said aid would be delivered to the Albanians with the help of the Serb authorities, who supposedly have set up 11 "humanitarian centres" near the refugee pockets — although journalists have been at a loss to locate them. He continually asked questions about any Serb families also displaced: the Americans are clearly anxious to give Belgrade an impression of even-handedness in the aid effort.



# Far Right wins legal battle over political advert

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

GERMANY'S far-right Republican party has won a legal battle to screen controversial television advertisements during the election campaign, significantly boosting its chances of capturing a foothold in the national and regional parliament.

The move came as another court ruled that the Republicans could not be spied on by the counter-intelligence service in Berlin because the party could not be defined as subversive or opposed to the Constitution.

Both rulings have buoyed up the far-right parties, which are concentrating their forces in the hope of jumping over the 5 per cent hurdle required to secure parliamentary representation.

The television ruling, made by a court in Mainz, has put the squeeze on private channels, such as SAT1, that were determined not to give any air time to right-wing radicals who are in many respects indistinguishable from neo-Nazis.

The Republicans had insisted on airing an advertisement that depicted Conrad Adenauer, the country's first postwar Chancellor, and Kurt Schumacher, who was then the leader of the Social Democratic opposition. Both men, the advertisement claimed, would have voted for the Republicans today. The party thus wanted to fudge the boundaries between German patriotism and extreme nationalism. SAT1 said this was not only nonsense — the politicians were declared anti-fascists, unlike many Republican supporters — but also libelled the families of the two dead men.

The court, however, decided that the advertisements should be shown in the inter-

## GERMAN ELECTIONS



ests of free speech. Television channels have no right to question or interfere with the content of political advertising, provided it does not try to stir up sentiment against foreigners. The last time a television advertisement was blocked was when a far-right party showed asylum-seekers running through a jungle.

¶ The parties want to fudge the boundaries between patriotism and nationalism

pursued by Tarzan. The Republicans pose a threat in Bavarian regional elections rather than at a national level, where they command about 3 per cent support, according to opinion polls.

The German People's Union, another extreme-right party that gained 13 per cent in an East German state election earlier this year, also has strong chances of getting into the state parliament of Mecklenburg. The Mecklenburg

vote is on September 27, the same day as the general election. But the different right-wing parties — mainly the Republicans, the German People's Union (DPU) and the National Party of Germany (NPD) — are coordinating activities and have put aside longstanding rivalries in order to soak up the big potential protest vote.

About 10 per cent of voters say they're willing to vote for a far-right party. The NPD in particular has been developing a sophisticated party machine and its card-carrying membership has almost doubled this year.

The success of the far Right at the general election will — now that most legal obstacles have been removed — boil down to a question of money. It is the willingness of Gerhard Frey, the millionaire publisher, to underwrite the debts of the German People's Union that has made it a real factor in German politics. From his Munich villa, Herr Frey has been masterminding the party's campaign. In eastern Germany, telegraph poles, lampposts and walls are being plastered with a DPU poster declaring: "Germans, don't let yourselves be milked dry."

The aim is to deliver a DPU leaflet to every German household by election day. A particular target are football fans who have leaflets pushed into their hands as they enter the stadium.

Herr Frey has made his peace with Franz Schönhuber, the erstwhile chief of the Republicans and a former member of the Waffen SS. He is by far the most popular politician on the right-wing fringe and he has agreed to be the figurehead of the DPU in the campaign.

Together with Herr Frey he will address a huge rally in the Nibelung Hall in Passau, on the eve of the election.



An Indonesian police unit formed last month to deal with women rioters parading in Jakarta this week. Fresh unrest was reported from the country yesterday when the military halted the withdrawal of combat troops from the troubled province of Aceh on Sumatra after riots left two dead and at least a dozen wounded

# 'Dreyfus' jailed in error goes free

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

OMAR RADDAD, a 36-year-old Moroccan gardener who was jailed for the murder of his wealthy employer, will be freed tomorrow on the orders of the French Justice Ministry. His release will end a case that has been widely condemned as a miscarriage of justice.

Mr Raddad was sentenced to 18 years in prison in 1994 for the killing of Ghislaine Marchal, 65, in her Riviera mansion in 1991. The conviction has since been criticised ever since as unsound and possibly tainted by racism. In Morocco, Mr Raddad's case has been compared to that of Alfred Dreyfus, the Jewish army officer unfairly convicted of treason in France in 1894.

The gardener's conviction was based mainly on a message scrawled in blood in the cellar where his employer's body was found: *Omar ma tuer* (Omar killed me). Defence lawyers argued that the grammatical error in the message, using the infinitive *tu* rather than the past participle *tue*, meant it could not have been written by a highly educated woman and that Mr Raddad had been framed.

Under pressure from King Hassan of Morocco, President Chirac signed a partial pardon in 1996 that cut his sentence by nearly five years but left open the issue of his guilt or innocence.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Students in Rangoon protest

Rangoon: Thousands of students protested against the Burma junta yesterday in the biggest such demonstrations in nearly two years as political tensions boiled over. They demanded the end of military government prompting riot police to cordon-off campuses.

Diplomats said the protest was initially triggered by anger at arrangements for examinations over the past two weeks, the first since universities were closed after the December 1996 unrest. (AFP)

### Cigarette killing

Tarbes: A French police officer was in custody yesterday after shooting dead a man who asked for a cigarette. Eric Ben Fatima, 31, died after being hit by three bullets fired by Alain Marty. (AFP)

### Iraqi threat

Baghdad: Iraq is threatening to take new, unspecified steps if the Security Council adopts a proposal by Britain and America to suspend regular reviews of trade sanctions against Baghdad. (Reuters)

### Iran mock battle

Tehran: About 70,000 Iranian troops and tanks staged attacks on mock enemy positions just 40 miles from the border with Afghanistan as tensions rose between the two nations. (Reuters)

### Deputy sacked

Kuala Lumpur: Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, sacked Anwar Ibrahim, his deputy, a day after the Government rejected the latter's free-market views. (Reuters)

### Maternity suit

Boston: A woman who said she was too upset to get an abortion after running from a clinic shooting has sued for "wrongful birth", saying the clinic should help to pay for the child's upkeep. (AP)

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# Communists' drums of war haunt Yeltsin

AT NO time since October 1993, when Boris Yeltsin ordered tanks to bombard his parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, into submission, has Russia looked closer to civil war.

Five years ago, crisis was averted. Then, as now, the President was locked into a test of strength with his legislature. Then, after a tantalising few hours while the generals decided who to support, Mr Yeltsin prevailed. This time, he cannot be so sure.

There are no tanks on the streets of Moscow today and, despite alarmist reports from people such as Viktor Ilyukhin, the Communist chairman of the Duma security committee, that troops are on alert, the barracks remain closed. Mr Yeltsin has vowed that he will not go against the Constitution: his opponents have done likewise. The political crisis could still be resolved through negotiation and compromise.

But Russians reading *Kommersant Daily*, the main business newspaper, yesterday could be forgiven for getting a different impression. A front-page editorial, running alongside a huge picture of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader and under a banner headline: "Zyuganov ready for war", proclaimed that Russia was on the brink of civil conflict.

The newspaper said that Mr Zyuganov's categorical insistence that his party would continue to reject Viktor Chernomyrdin, Mr Yeltsin's candidate for Prime Minister, through the second and third rounds of voting amounted to a declaration of war by the left-wing opposition.

"The time of bargaining is over. That was the conclusion of Tuesday's meeting of the Duma Council, which itself more closely resembles a council of war. The left majority has adopted a strategic decision: no concessions, no Chernomyrdins," the editorial said.

Mr Zyuganov has himself accused Mr Yeltsin of pushing the country towards civil war through his obduracy and urged him to propose a different candidate to the Duma. Names that have emerged include Yegor Stroyev, the moderate chairman of the

**Leader who stood against coup cannot count on army now, writes Robin Lodge**

Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, or Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow.

Mr Yeltsin's advisers are also urging him to drop Mr Chernomyrdin. But for him to do so would be a humiliating climbdown, his first political defeat at Mr Zyuganov's hands. Last Sunday, he was willing even to cede some of his key powers in exchange for his man's approval. Only a last-minute change of heart by the Communists, whose lust for blood even took their allies unawares, prevented the deal from going through.

If the two sides stick to their guns over the next few days, the consequences could be calamitous. The Communists, aware that a third-round rejection of Mr Chernomyrdin would lead to Mr Yeltsin dissolving parliament and calling new elections — or even imposing a state of emergency — could seek to pre-empt him by initiating long-threatened impeachment proceedings. Once this process has begun, the President cannot dissolve parliament.

Mr Yeltsin is unlikely to sit and wait for this to happen. He has nothing to gain from waiting for a third-round vote if it is going to go against him. Instead, he could simply apply

his constitutional powers to dissolve the Duma immediately, or after the second-round vote tomorrow, and call a state of emergency.

The question then would be whether the legislature would meekly submit or defy him. If it refused to be dissolved, the chances are that it would get tremendous support from a population that has suffered far too much over the past seven years to believe Mr Yeltsin or the Government any more.

If tens or even hundreds of thousands of people flocked to Moscow from the provinces to defend parliament — as they did to support Mr Yeltsin during the putsch of 1993, the President will be forced to call in the troops, if only to preserve order.

But before he can take such a step, he must first work out whether the army would support him. As President, he is commander-in-chief and a refusal by the military to obey his orders would amount to mutiny.

But Mr Yeltsin has few friends in the army. His plans for military reform, coupled with the appalling underfunding that the army has suffered over the past few years and the humiliation of its defeat in Chechnya, has caused widespread, bitter resentment.

The so-called military opposition, led by disgruntled former generals such as Aleksandr Lebed and the late Lev Rokhlin, makes up the most credible opposition force in the country.

Mr Lebed has frequently, if at times melodramatically, issued a warning that the army is in a revolutionary mood. He



President Clinton meets Aleksandr Lebed yesterday and, below, Mr Yeltsin on top of an armoured personnel carrier during the 1993 putsch

is doubtful that it would rally behind the President.

"All Russian citizens greatly dislike the Duma today, but they dislike Yeltsin even more," Mr Lebed said last night. "If Yeltsin does anything drastic, everyone will rush to save parliament."

In October 1993, Mr Yeltsin's victory was mainly assured by the intervention on his behalf of two crack interior Ministry divisions. The Kantemirovskaya Tank Division, based at Narofominsk, 40 miles southwest of Moscow, and the Tamanskaya Motorised Infantry Division, based in Goltysno, 20 miles west of the capital, sent tanks and armoured vehicles to surround the White House, while crack Alfa units of the Presidential Guard fought off attempts by the rebels to take over the Ostankino television centre.

Further support came later from the 119th Airborne Division, based in Ryazan, the Tula Airborne Landing Division and the 27th Motorised Infantry Brigade in Tyoply Stan, southeast Moscow.

Again, in the event of military intervention, it would be the units based in and around Moscow that would play the

crucial role, allowing the troops in the outlying military districts to wait and see how things turned out. And like last time, the army would wait to see how the interior troops fared before coming in themselves.

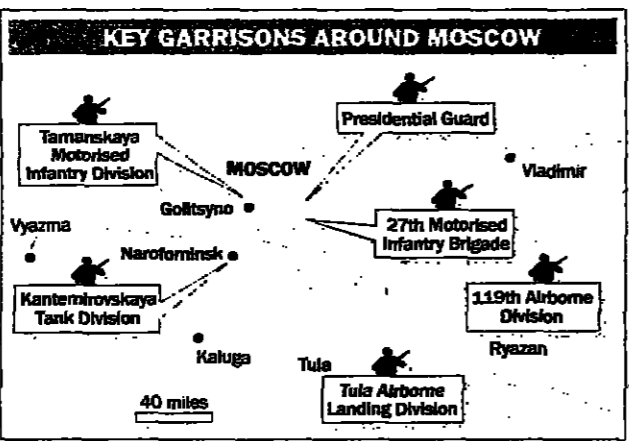
But according to Pavel Felgenhauer, defence editor of *Sogodnya*, Mr Yeltsin can no longer count on any support from either the Kantemirovskaya or the Tamanskaya: "They hate his guts. They wouldn't lift a finger to save him." The same applied to the paratroops, who would be seeking a lead from a figure such as Mr Lebed, before deciding which side to take.

Mr Felgenhauer doubted whether even the Presidential Guard would do much to help Mr Yeltsin. He said: "Their first loyalty is to the KGB and the KGB is not too fond of Yeltsin. Professionally speaking, they would defend the Kremlin, but they would not take orders to go out and beat up pensioners. In the end they would be about as much use to Yeltsin as the Iranian Imperial Guard was to the Shah."

On the other hand, the Russian Army has traditionally remained loyal to the established power, however

reluctantly. The political impasse could not continue for long and the army would not stay in barracks if rioting broke out on the streets. In such circumstances, commanders would be faced with the choice of supporting Mr Yeltsin, his parliamentary opponents or a third figure such as Mr Lebed, who might just step in as the self-proclaimed saviour of Russia. For that to happen without bloodshed or a shot being fired is scarcely conceivable.

Leading article and letters, page 21  
Norman Stone, page 20



## Crisis boosts Lebed Allies sign early warning deal

BY ROBIN LODGE

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

ALEXSANDR LEBED, the popular former paratroop general recently elected Governor of the vast Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk, has long given warnings about possible unrest in the beleaguered Russian forces. Now, with Russia in the grip of an economic and political crisis, people are listening.

Mr Lebed has made no secret of his political ambitions. He ran on a law-and-order ticket in the 1996 presidential elections, coming third in the first round, before throwing his support behind Boris Yeltsin, thus ensuring the latter's victory against Gennadi Zyuganov, the unre-

formed Communist, in the second round.

General Lebed was rewarded with the job of National Security Adviser, but he was too outspoken to last long in office. While he succeeded in bringing to an end the war in Chechnya, he was vilified for selling out Russia, and was subsequently sacked.

Since becoming Governor of Krasnoyarsk, Russia's main source of plutonium, he has secured a base for the presidential elections in 2000. He has also started building political alliances with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the nominated Prime Minister. The two share views on many issues.

BRITAIN and America yesterday announced plans for greater sharing of early warning intelligence with Russia, amid fears that the country's weakened military could mistakenly believe it was under missile attack from the West.

At the end of their summit in Moscow, President Yeltsin and President Clinton signed two arms control agreements, one to improve information about missile testing and the other to cut by 50 tonnes each country's stockpile of plutonium, which could be used to make thousands of nuclear warheads. Although the deals were relatively modest by the standards of the huge arms

cuts negotiated in the 1980s, American officials placed great importance on early warning co-operation.

In December 1995, a Norwegian scientific rocket, fired off the country's northern coast, caused Russia to believe that it was under missile attack. For a few tense minutes Russia's vast nuclear forces were placed on alert. Since then its ability to monitor its huge borders has weakened, in part because of cuts to the armed forces and also because of the loss of key listening posts.

Under the American-Russian agreement, each side will give the other continuous information about launches of

any long-range or short-range missiles and space vehicles. Initially the information will be sent to each side's early warning centres, but in the future a joint liaison centre may be staffed by American and Russian officers.

"The agreement today on early warning sharing is especially relevant at a time when Russia's early warning system is under stress from budget difficulties, systems failures and the closure of early warning radars on the soil of nations outside Russia," said Robert Bell, a national security adviser to Mr Clinton. The Ministry of Defence said Britain would also contribute.

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Airlines in US enforce 'no nut' zones

James Bond is

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## Airlines in US enforce 'no nut' zones

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE American Government's Department of Transportation has taken steps to eliminate a little known fear of flying: peanuts.

It has told all large American airlines that they must set aside seats in a "peanut-free zone" when requested to do so by passengers with peanut allergies. Some airline executives thought the idea was a joke — or a bureaucracy gone nutty — when they first heard of it.

The department decided there was a need to accommodate peanut allergy sufferers after reviewing a law passed in 1986 that guarantees access to planes for the disabled.

One solution is for airlines to stop serving peanuts, as American Airlines has already done on most flights. If not, they must provide peanut-free buffer zones on flights on request, when they are given advance notice, to passengers who have medically documented severe peanut allergies.

A buffer zone consists of a minimum of the passenger's row and the row immediately in front and behind, meaning that even passengers who do not have an allergy will be denied peanuts if they are sitting there.

The American Peanut Council was none too happy. Julie Adams, a council executive, said they hoped the policy would be enforced consistently and would not deny peanuts to the majority of passengers.

# Lewinsky scandal still dogs Clinton at home

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESSURE at home continued to mount on President Clinton yesterday as the Monica Lewinsky scandal followed the US leader to the Kremlin.

Mr Clinton's troubles deepened as Ms Lewinsky's lawyers said she had given a third sworn statement to Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, on the details of her affair with the President. She was asked to describe their sexual acts in more detail to establish whether there were conflicts with Mr Clinton's testimony, reports said.

Speaking in Moscow at his first press conference since making the televised address when he admitted an affair, Mr Clinton said he regretted any hurt he had caused but wanted to get back to work. "I have acknowledged that I made a mistake, said that I regretted it, asked to be forgiven, spent a lot of valuable time with my family in the last couple of weeks and said I was going back to work," he said, as President Yeltsin looked on impassively. "I believe that is what the people want me to do and, based on my conversations with leaders around the world, I think that's what they want me to do and that is what I intend to do."

Critics said Mr Clinton's televised *mea culpa* did not go far enough in apologising for his sexual misdeeds. Yesterday, he promised that he would continue "the personal process" of making amends for his affair, but insisted he had conveyed his "profound regret to all who were hurt".

However, after being asked a second question about the scandal, he lost patience, saying that most reasonable people would think it had consumed "a disproportionate amount of American time, money and resources."

A federal judge in Arkansas has hinted that she could find Mr Clinton in contempt of court for his misleading testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. Judge Susan Webber Wright added that she would release the videotaped statement Mr Clinton made on January 17, together with Mrs Jones's statement, believed to include a description of the "distinguishing characteristics" of Mr Clinton's genitals.

Mr Clinton received an unexpected boost from a confession by Dan Burton, a Republican congressman and one of the President's harshest critics, during the Lewinsky scandal. Mr Burton, 60, hinted strongly to his Indiana constituents this week that he had been unfaithful to his wife during their troubled 38-year marriage, apparently in an attempt to pre-empt an expose by *Vanity Fair*.



Mike Beasley flees his home with two of his horses to escape a bush fire in Santiago Canyon, east of Los Angeles yesterday. Fires have blackened 30,000 acres and damaged dozens of homes in what is predicted to be the region's worst fire season in years. At least six big and several smaller fires are raging over a wide area

## America insists factory was gas producer

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon and CIA have launched a spirited response to critics who accuse the United States of bombing a harmless pharmaceutical factory in Sudan.

At briefings here, officials insisted that the factory was involved in a secret chemical weapons programme. President Clinton ordered the raid in retaliation for vehicle bombs that destroyed US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Those attacks were linked to Osama bin Laden whose camps in Afghanistan were also bombed.

William Cohen, the Secretary of Defence, and George Tenet, the CIA director, told 42 senators at a secret briefing that America had strong evidence to justify the Sudan attack. They asserted that tests of a soil sample obtained from outside the factory by a CIA spy showed a high concentration of *Empta*, a chemical used in the manufacture of VX nerve gas.

But James Woolsey, Mr Clinton's former CIA director, was not convinced. He said: "This should not be the kind of decision made only with three or four people around you of Cabinet-level who don't know an *Empta* sample from their left foot."

## James Bond is licensed to sell

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN BEVERLY HILLS

FIVE Leatherette bikinis worn by Octopussy's henchwomen in the Bond film of the same name will be auctioned later this month and are expected to fetch up to £375 each. They could be a bargain: two identical pairs went under the hammer less than a year ago with estimates of up to £900 apiece.

Intimate apparel is the unacknowledged theme of the first auction devoted exclusively to Bondabilia, to be held at Christie's in London after a week-long preview in Los Angeles.

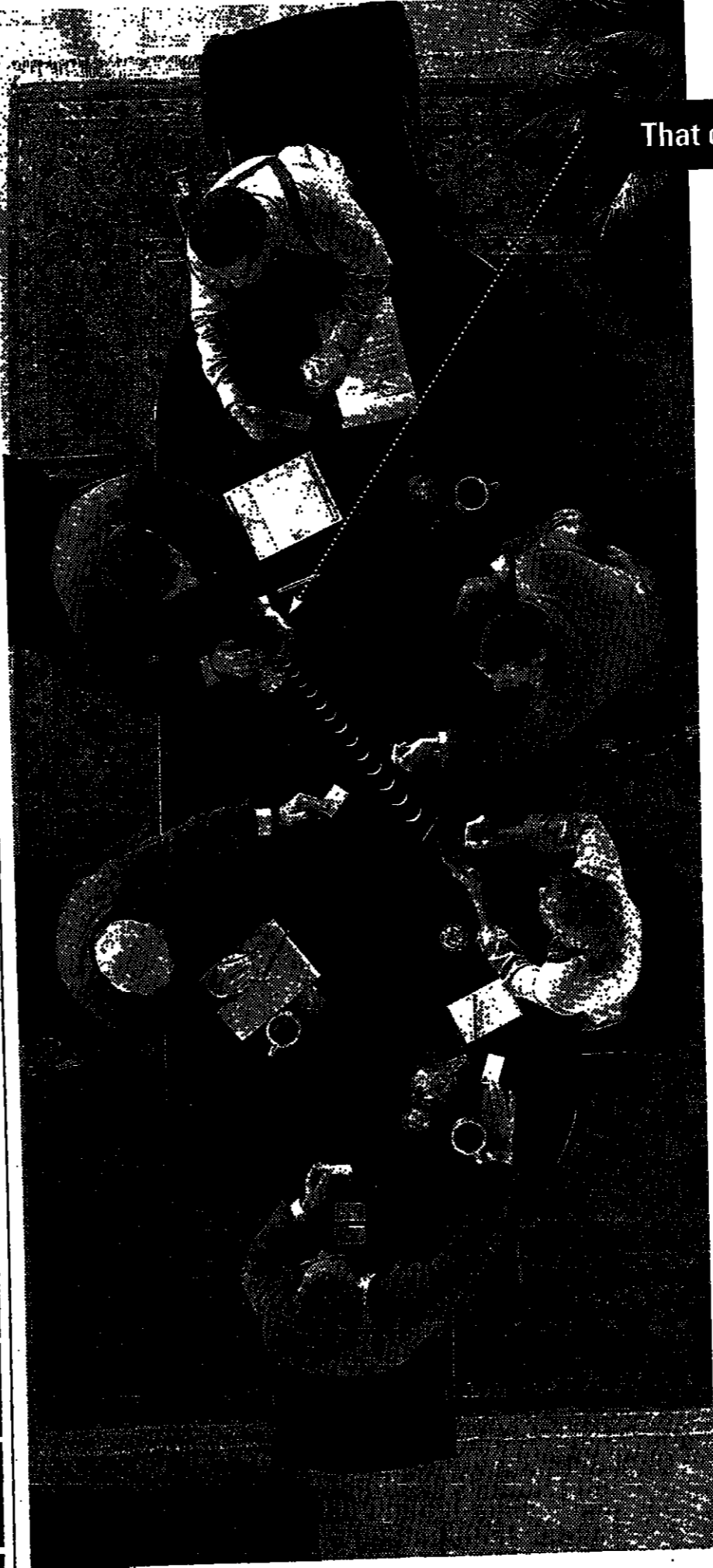
Besides the combat bikinis — stretched and a little faded since the film's 1963 release — enthusiasts will compete for a sheer silk blouse worn by Maryam d'Abo in *The Living Daylights* (£300-500) and a pencil skirt tailored for Miss Moneybags (Caroline Bliss) in the same film.

Lot 225 is more peculiar: a pair of frilly pink imitation lace knickers which Christie's admits Shirley Eaton did not wear in her love scene with Sean Connery in *Goldfinger*, but which are said to be identical to those she wore. Presumably made for Marks & Spencer, they boast a 1964 vintage and a £200-300 estimate.



A poster for *Dr. No*, one of the many items for sale at the first Christie's auction of 007 memorabilia

Anything linked to Mr Bond himself is more expensive. A magnetised watch used by Roger Moore to unzip an Italian evening gown in *Live and Let Die* is expected to fetch £4,000-6,000, while an amphibious Lotus from *The Spy Who Loved Me* could go for four times as much. Neither gadget works. The watch comes stripped of everything but its face and a miniature circular saw, and the car is a mere shell of its submarine form.



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**Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on how to withdraw from Prozac safely; Rothermere's death; the elderly and sea cruises; why some children are born with calluses; and sensitivity to aspirin**

## Cold turkey in the Arctic

When Liza Helps was 1500 miles north of Montreal and walking across Baffin Island in the Arctic Circle, she lost her Prozac. She doesn't know whether it disappeared down some crevasse or now lies buried in the snow. However it happened, the medication which miraculously lifted her mood and had given a level approach to life, had now gone. Baffin Island

**Lisa was aware that heavy exercise could help her**

est in her condition and its treatment. In her case she wasn't only helped by Prozac, her response to which she described as "terrific", but also by cognitive therapy, which she found "massively helpful".

Liza knew that suddenly discontinuing antidepressant treatment can have serious consequences. She also knew that these symptoms only affected about a third of patients and that Prozac was less likely than other drugs of this group to produce it because it is metabolised very slowly in the body. Liza was so knowledgeable that she was also aware that patients who take very heavy exercise are also less likely to suffer the antidepressant discontinuation syndrome.

While Liza was dragging a sled for eight hours a day, there was always some excitement and, as she hauled her load, she wondered whether this exertion would produce enough endorphins, naturally produced opiate-like chemicals, to counteract any possible antidepressant withdrawal syndrome. Either the endorphins or the long half-life of Prozac did; she had no side-effects and the depression hasn't returned.

The antidepressant withdrawal syndrome occurs with either the SSRI drugs, but not usually with Prozac, or with the older tricyclic antidepressants. It is because of this syndrome that doctors emphasise

to patients the importance of tailing off all antidepressant treatment. Few patients lose their pills in Arctic snow; usually, the syndrome is induced by abruptly leaving off treatment because they feel well, or because they have forgotten to pack them when travelling.

Last year doctors from the Mental Health Research Institute in Michigan reported in the journal of *International Clinical Psychopharmacology* on the antidepressant withdrawal syndrome after discontinuing tricyclic antidepressant therapy. Simultaneously, other doctors from the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston wrote on the syndrome in the *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, after discontinuation of serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SHT inhibitors). The Boston doctors emphasised that the symptoms were unlikely if Prozac had been prescribed.

Patients with the syndrome fall ill about three days after taking the last dose. They complain of dizziness and light-headedness, nausea and vomiting, lethargy, joint pains, chills and flu-like symptoms. Sleep may be upset and they may experience strange neurological symptoms, sometimes as if shocks are being passed through their limbs, and there may be a resumption of their depressive state, with anxiety, irritation, tears and irritability. The symptoms only last for a few days and are easily treated if the correct diagnosis is made, by a return to the antidepressant treatment which may then be tapered off. Symptoms of the syndrome are so diffuse that they have resulted in patients being subjected to



Cruising may seem a perfect holiday for older travellers, but life at sea can present the less agile with many hazards

## Why the elderly can cruise into danger

ELDERLY patients often opt for a holiday cruise as, at first sight it, provides company, resident care and a changing scene. The less agile can, it is suggested, go to remote parts of the world and still be protected from the climatic extremes.

Cruising is undeniably less dangerous than hurtling down the French motorways but it is not without its own hazards. Dr Iain McIntosh, a lecturer in travel health at the University of Glasgow, has made a particular study of sea cruising for the elderly traveller in the journal *Geriatric Medicine*.

Cruise travellers may not have to brave the motorway, but ships are unstable platforms as they pitch and roll, and this makes the long passageways and stairways perilous. The gangways in particular become slippery and wet in rough weather. Quays are greasy, and not all septuagenarians are good at descending over the side of a ship and leaping on to a floating bridge likewise negotiating the variable gap between a ship and tender can be daunting.

In port the patients are confronted by diseases they would never have met in Tumbidge Wells. Medically, the ships are well equipped but not to the level of an intensive care unit. The usual practice is to disembark a seriously ill passenger. If they are in luck, and insured, they may find themselves in some sumptuously equipped American hospital; if in a more remote area, in a small hospital on a Caribbean island.

As well as carrying out a realistic assessment of their health, travellers must have the necessary inoculations, carry their drugs with them and have a copy of their recent medical history.

## Reducing stress that can lead to death

VISCOUNT ROTHERMERE'S sudden death has shocked not only his family, friends and those who worked with him, but also his readers, who have been intrigued by his opinions on the Government of this country and the workings of the newspaper world.

The proprietor of the *Daily Mail*, *The Mail on Sunday* and *London Evening Standard* apparently died from a heart attack. It is impossible to predict all those who are at risk from such a fate; some people with minimal obstruction to their coronary arteries may die suddenly if a plaque of atheroma, the fatty substance that looks like porridge and coats the inside of the artery wall, suddenly breaks loose. Doctors are, however, getting better at recognising the factors that may induce an attack in those known to have coronary heart disease.

Such people should be taking a beta-blocker unless there is a definite contra-indication to this type of medication. Research published recently shows that this reduces the likelihood of another heart attack by 40 per cent. They should also be taking aspirin in small quantities every day and, ideally, two glasses of alcohol, preferably red wine, but other drinks are also helpful. Their behaviour should be geared to reduce sudden stress. Many years ago, I was fortunate to travel the countryside with Airey Neave, the late Northern Ireland spokesman for the Conservative Party, as part of a select committee. Our programme often involved split-second timings but he always refused to hurry.

Dashing for a plane or train can be particularly stressful as it combines sudden physical exertion with the anxiety of wondering whether the traveller will make it. Rushing for a theatre has a similar effect as does nipping hazily across a busy street.

The dangers of extremes of climate for those with cardiovascular disease are well known. Hot, clammy weather can expose potential weaknesses. But the greatest increase in the death rate is associated with cold weather. Schoolboy lore should be forgotten and windows kept shut — inhaling cold air can induce angina even when a person is tucked under a duvet. Central heating should be left on at night. Hard physical exertion on very cold days is especially dangerous — let somebody else chop the logs or fetch the coal. Climbing into a car that has been left out in freezing temperatures all night is as taxing on the coronary arteries as spending ten minutes in the deep freeze.

Dr Graham Jackson, in his recently published book *Heart Health at Your Fingertips*, discusses ways of reducing stress, such as going for a walk at lunchtime. Cardiac patients need to learn that they cannot solve all life's problems themselves, and should also rid themselves of the guilt of thinking that they have caused them. The potential victim should avoid overcommitment and learn to turn down appointments.

Dr Jackson also suggests that, as well as choosing a careful diet, keeping the blood pressure low, giving up smoking and having regular exercise, people should develop interests. He poses the question that if this were the last day of your life, would you choose to spend it gesticulating at other drivers, swearing at parking-meter attendants or shouting at railway officials? Anger is the most corrosive of the emotions in its ability to increase heart strain. Avoid contact with irritating people; instead write them a letter, then tear it up before posting it.

Heart Health at Your Fingertips by Dr Graham Jackson, Class Publishing, £14.99

## Too sensitive for aspirin

A READER has kindly contacted *The Times* about our advocacy of aspirin. Aspirin not only relieves headaches, joint pains and toothache but is very effective in preventing coronary heart disease. And in slightly bigger doses it is the first-aid treatment for a coronary thrombosis. Aspirin reduces the incidence of cataracts and Alzheimer's disease and, it is now reported, may offer some protection against cancer of the colon.

Our reader warns us that aspirin does have some disadvantages. Most people are aware that it may cause intestinal bleeding but he claims that few know that it can occasionally cause anaphylactic shock in sensitive people just as surely as peanuts or bee stings.

Aspirin sensitivity is comparatively rare. The people most likely to suffer from aspirin sensitivity are patients who suffer from nasal polyps and asthma. Others who may experience an allergy to aspirin are also frequently allergic to food dyes such as tartrazine. Patients who collapse after being given aspirin are particularly likely to be middle-aged and female and to have a family history of allergies including, of course, asthma and hay fever.

## An island's ancient curse that is only skin deep

DOCTORS can be guaranteed to think up a confusing Greek or Latin term to describe a common sign or symptom. Few people know that a callus, or corn, is technically known as a tylosis — a thickening in the skin on the hands and feet where manual labour has hardened the surface.

In some parts of the world, small children are born with calluses on their palms and soles. One such place is the Orkney island of Stronsay, where Dr John Buchan is the doctor. He believes the condition, known as tylosis, might have been introduced to Stronsay from The Netherlands when the two places were linked economically by the herring industry.

In most places tylosis is an ominous sign because 95 per cent of those affected develop a

fatal cancer of the gullet before they are 65. Fortunately, in Stronsay there is no increase in this form of cancer.

A legend is reported in *GP* magazine that 150 years ago one Barbara Fotheringham prayed when pregnant that her child might be born with a sign that it was going to be rich. Her son was indeed marked — he had calluses on his palms and soles. It is not recorded whether he ever made a fortune or not, but the "curse of the Fotheringhams" has beset Stronsay ever since.

For generation after generation, some people on the island have had callused palms all their lives. The skin of the palms may be so thick that they can grasp a red-hot poker without feeling pain, albeit that the room then smells like a smithy.



The late Lord Rothermere

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THE MISFITS

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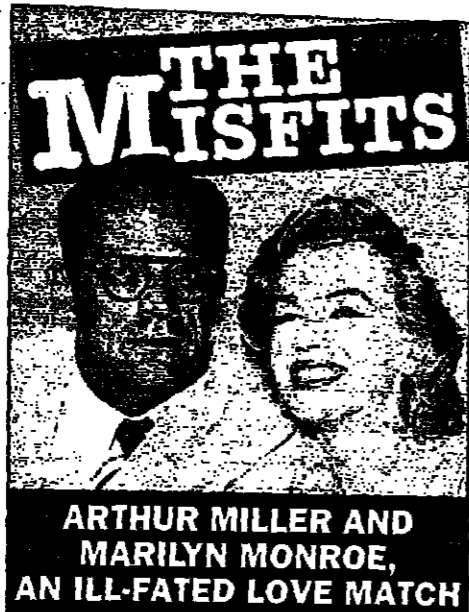
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# The end of the honeymoon



ARTHUR MILLER AND MARILYN MONROE, AN ILL-FATED LOVE MATCH

Drink, drugs and the loss of two longed-for children helped to cause the disintegration of the marriage between Miller and Monroe, Barbara Leaming reveals in the third extract from her new book

Marilyn's belief in her ability to become a serious actress had been badly shaken, if not destroyed. *The Prince and the Showgirl* seemed to have killed something in her.

Having lost one dream, she was terrified of losing her marriage as well. In New York she did everything possible to ensure that did not happen. She struggled to be, as one of Miller's lawyers fondly called her, "Mrs Arthur". She would create a perfect home. She would make it possible for her husband to write. She would be at his side throughout his political troubles. Above all, she would give him a baby.

In a hopeful mood, the Millers spent the summer on Long Island, in a brown-shingled house in Amagansett. By then Marilyn was pregnant. On the morning of August 1 she was working in the cottage garden. Suddenly she was overreacting with pain and screamed. Miller ran out. They were more than 100 miles from New York City but Marilyn felt that if she could see her regular doctor, the baby might be saved. It was noon before they reached Doctors Hospital. Marilyn was wheeled in on a stretcher. Dr Hilliard Dubrow wanted to operate immediately — she had had an ectopic pregnancy. The baby could not be saved; the pregnancy had to be terminated.

Marilyn, terribly depressed, stayed in hospital for ten days. The doctor's opinion that she might be able to have a child

later did not reassure her. Miller was constantly at her side but Marilyn seemed sure that he would abandon her now. Although it was all in her mind, Miller was desperate to show her how he felt about her.

Marilyn was released on August 10. During the drive to Amagansett she and Miller hardly spoke. He could think of nothing to say to comfort her. Soon after she arrived home Marilyn took an overdose of sleeping pills. Miller found her collapsed in a chair, her breathing irregular. That sound would become terrifyingly familiar, but now he needed a moment to grasp what it meant. He phoned for help, saving her life.

In hope of giving Marilyn a gift, Miller began work on *The Misfits*. The author of *Death of a Salesman* intuitively knew the importance of retaining one's dream. Perhaps he could write a script that would enable Marilyn to live up to her ideals. He burrowed in his studio all day. He had not worked in such a sustained fashion since the marriage began. Knowing the degree to which he valued and protected his work, how could Marilyn fail to see that writing a screenplay for her was his way of publicly declaring his faith in her?

But spending hours away from her may have been the worst thing to do. At a time when she most feared rejection, their days apart could only have felt like confirmation that he was withdrawing.

Miller wrote *The Misfits* at a feverish pace. He seemed to be

writing against death, as though his words could save Marilyn. But the idealised portrait of her he was writing — a picture of the woman he'd fallen in love with — was also an attempt to hold on to his own image of Marilyn. On a conscious level *The Misfits* may have been intended to show Marilyn he loved her; but in a deeper sense, he seemed to be trying to convince himself.

Soon he had pages to show her. As she read, he watched and listened. Marilyn laughed out loud reading about the cowboys. But her reaction to Roslyn was not what Miller expected. She was cautious, unenthusiastic. Miller sincerely believed that in creating Roslyn he had done something wonderful for Marilyn, but she didn't act as though he had. She wouldn't even commit to appearing in *The Misfits*. No wonder he later admitted to having been hurt.

What accounts for her response? Marilyn believed that Miller loved her, he had to accept the monster inside her. His idealisation of her suggested that he wanted to pretend it didn't exist. In addition, Marilyn had read many scripts over the years. Did she see flaws in her husband's screenplay? If Miller had written a stage play for her, it would have been different: the stage was his domain. But with film he was no longer the teacher, she no longer the pupil. Now she was in a position to judge, to criticise, even to reject what he had written.

In writing a screenplay, Miller made it possible for Marilyn to suspect his motives. Had he offered her a stage play, there could have been no doubt that he was doing it for her, providing an entrée into his world. He would have been conferring his prestige as a playwright upon her.

As it was, he needed Marilyn's prestige to get *The Misfits* made. Whatever his intentions, there was at least the appearance that an ambitious husband was cashing in on his movie-star wife.

Meanwhile, the studio knew that Marilyn had lost her baby, and there were disturbing reports from New York that she wasn't well. Her day began with a Bloody Mary, or she might wash down eggs with champagne.

In April 1958 Marilyn agreed to do *Some Like It Hot*. She taught herself to play the ukulele, and as Miller worked in his study, her baby voice wafted through the apartment singing *I Wanna Be Loved By You*, from the movie. At other times she parodied herself, weeping, she pleaded with Miller not to send her to Hollywood. He tried to reassure her. But in doing so, he inadvertently said the one thing certain to plunge her into a deeper terror — that it was up to her to make the film a success.

At a party at the Strasbergs' house Marilyn loudly ordered Miller to get her mink coat. The guests were theatre people; among them Miller was seen as one of America's finest postwar playwrights. When he obediently went for the coat a horrified guest said: "How can you talk to that man that way? It's degrading." Marilyn's tone was cool: "You think I shouldn't have talked to him like that? Then why didn't he slap me? He should have slapped me."

The honeymoon was over. Marilyn's idealisation of Miller seemed to have turned to contempt. The shift appeared to hinge on his efforts to write and sell *The Misfits*. Meanwhile, he was in a state of perpetual apprehension as Marilyn veered between extremes.

Miller seemed to be cashing in on his movie-star wife

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Monroe and Miller leaving the hospital after her miscarriage in August 1957. Soon afterwards, he began to write *The Misfits* to show his faith in her

She lashed out one moment and wept that he was ignoring her need. She was desperate to have his baby. She was eager to make a real home with him in Connecticut.

At the same time, Marilyn attacked him where he was most vulnerable, assailing his stature as a writer. Her initial lack of enthusiasm for *The Misfits* had become overt, strident criticism. She disparaged it to others, and her complaints were devastatingly on target. She was correct that it had to be rewritten; it was talky, thin on character and action. Yet she did not seem sincerely interested in fixing the script; her real purpose seemed to be to vent her rage at her husband.

The director of *Some Like It Hot*, Billy Wilder, sincerely admired her comic sense and treated her as someone who knew what she was talking about. But she seemed not to notice that Wilder was genuinely interested in what she had to say. Perhaps she just didn't care any more.

Soon she was up to her old tricks. She came to work late. She hadn't learnt her lines. Her tendency to botch the simplest dialogue irritated the other actors. And no sooner did the director yell "Cut!" than she shouted "Coffee!" — an assistant would then produce a red Thermos, out of which she sipped vermouth all day.

Marilyn taunted Miller — she French-kissed Tony Curtis and when she introduced her husband to the gregarious journalist James Bacon she cooed suggestively: "Jim and I used to be real close."

Marilyn finished the film on November 7. Twelve hours later it looked as though she were about to miscarry. She was rushed to hospital. There was no miscarriage but the doctors warned her to stop the pills and drinking — the baby was in danger. After a week of rest at the Bel Air Hotel, Marilyn was taken by ambulance to the airport for the flight home. On East 57th Street a gift awaited her — a miniature cradle with a toy baby, a present from her maid. Marilyn burst into tears of gratitude.

She stopped drinking and taking drugs. Convinced that the baby would be a girl, she insisted repeatedly that she did not want to harm her daughter. But the barbiturates in her system could end the baby's life at any time. Fearful that exertion might cause a

miscarriage, she stayed in bed, nervously playing with the cradle, which she had placed on the pillow beside her.

As Miller worked in his study one day, he heard Marilyn scream. The pain was excruciating. She wept that she was going to lose the baby. Miller accompanied her in an ambulance to the hospital. That night, he returned to the apartment alone.

Marilyn held herself responsible for the baby's death. She had known that her addictions could harm it, and had ignored those warnings. She was convinced that she had killed her own daughter. When she came home and saw the cradle next to her mother's picture she threw it on the floor and wept uncontrollably.

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# A return to the bad old Bolsheviks

## Norman Stone fears Lebed may be right about Russia

Terminator Two was what the Russian intelligence called General Aleksandr Lebed. And he does have something of a Schwarzenegger quality. He has been an excellent soldier, but he also has political sense and has been quite adept at solving the nationality conflicts that have arisen in the territory of the old Soviet Union in the past few years. Mr Lebed could be Boris Yeltsin's successor if he finds the right backers, and journalists have been waiting to see what he has to say about the present crisis.

He has told President Clinton that the situation is "worse than 1917". Of course this is hyperbole. In 1917, Russia was fighting the First World War and there were six million men under arms. But in a sense Mr Lebed is right: Russia is going through what in Leninist parlance would have been called "a revolutionary situation". The old is dying, and the new has not yet been born. Meanwhile, there is no party that can legitimately run government and yet public finances are running out of control. This goes to the heart of Russia's political problems.

### The old is dying and the new has not yet been born

Yesterday's *International Herald Tribune* cartoonist, Danziger, suggests that the Russians will soon be inking their own trouble notes. In 1917 this actually happened. The Provisional Government, which had succeeded the abdicated Tsar, could only use the printing press to create money. It did so at such speed that there was no time to print numbers on the notes, and if customers tried to take money from a bank, they had to follow the teller's instructions and ink in the numbers. The reason for this was that the State had no mechanism for taxation, just as happens more or less today. There was no way of identifying people's incomes since they kept their own books (if any at all).

An income tax was levied in 1915, and there was an excess profits tax, levied for political reasons. Together these paid roughly for a weekend of the First World War. Indirect taxes were not much help either because, in an extraordinary act of self-denial, the Tsar imposed prohibition in 1914 and thus forfeited the main item of revenue in the country. By 1917 it was impossible to raise money by war loan, because the rouble was inflating so fast.

The same is quite likely to happen now. It will have the predictable effects of a great inflation. Those people who have things to sell will hoard them, in anticipation of higher prices. In the summer of 1917 the banks were even speculating in sugar, vast bags of which were kept in the vaults because it was better collateral than anything else. Wholesalers did the same with flour, provoking bread riots.

The working classes, on whom the war depended, found themselves dealing with increasingly worthless paper money. The State's efforts to reform these things made them

worse: the distribution of meat and grain supplies broke down entirely. In an inflation, in Russia, this sort of thing happens. We might not now expect conditions of this sort to occur and people are not used to coping. True, in 1990 there were endless alarms about food shortages, but the Yeltsinists in the Moscow machine were hampering it up to discredit Mikhail Gorbachev. Besides, in those days, Russians could stand an inflation because their own savings accounts were stuffed with roubles for which there had been nothing to buy.

Now there is a cash economy, of a sort, there are no savings and, come an inflation, there will be dreadful shortages, some of them man-made. That is very like 1917. Then the Russian crisis was such that no party could contemplate taking responsibility for the mess. The Provisional Government even imagined that it could improve matters by launching what might be called market reforms in a war. It even abolished income tax, and treated the Stock Exchange in such a bizarre way that it boomed in the weeks before the revolution.

The moderate Left and Right were terrified of taking power, and the way was open for Lenin and the Bolsheviks, who expected chaos, and were ready to make a new world. They "solved" the food question by barter and force, and they were able to use the army, which mutated

nowadays in Russia there seems again to be only one party that, having expected the chaos and perhaps also worked for it, is ready to take power: the Communists. This time, too, they might even be able to rely on the army. In 1993, the army saved Yeltsin when the former Soviet Duma members rebelled; that led to the extraordinary, and extraordinarily symbolic, bombardment of the White House.

Mr Yeltsin has hitherto squandered the generals, to some extent even by conniving at the shady deals that some have been doing. Mr Lebed, although manipulated by Mr Yeltsin over the Chechen affair and since, will have learnt his lesson, and will keep clear so that he is not tied to a corpse. The army will be in an exceedingly important position, and it will not, this time, be saving Mr Yeltsin unless some miracle appears. In 1917, there was also a military saviour in the wings — the lion-hearted General Kornilov, who staged a coup at the behest of elements in the Provisional Government, and was then let down by them. Mr Lebed may very well be turning into a long-dead Kornilov, but this time one with a brain and a future — of all oddities, in unlikely partnership with the Communists. *Badnaya Rossiya* — "poor Russia" — as they often say.

The author is Professor of International Relations at Bilkent University, Ankara.

## NOW A THING OF THE PAST, OVER, DONE WITH & GONE.

GERRY ADAMS



# Half full or half empty?

### The worst of the economic crisis is over. Only the hangover remains

After the party comes the hangover. We all know the cliché for stock market crashes and economic downturns. But nobody mentions what happens next. After the hangover comes a dose of aspirin, an hour or two in bed and then a return to normal life, probably fortified by some cheerful recollections from the party.

August was definitely a bad month for party-goers this year. For merry-makers on Wall Street, for robber barons in Moscow feasting on the booty of Mother Russia and for carousers at the White House, hangover time has certainly arrived. But how bad are the headaches and how long will they last? From the grim tone now fashionable in the media and financial circles, one would imagine that the diagnosis for all the economic and political headaches this summer was not hangover but brain cancer. But looking around the world at the crises that have dominated the headlines, are things really that bad?

Let us begin with the least important of the so-called crises — the supposed collapse of American global leadership connected with the White House sex scandals. I have long taken a sanguine view of these scandals and firmly believe that President Clinton will emerge muddied but unbowed from the quagmire of Washington sleaze. But even supposing that this is wrong, anyone who suggests that America has suffered a serious loss of prestige or power in the world is lacking a sense of history. Never before has one nation dominated the world stage as clearly as America does today. To give just one example, could you imagine one of America's European allies declaring a virtual economic war against the dollar or withdrawing military co-operation from America as de Gaulle did 30 years ago? Mr Clinton may be a bit of a laughing-stock at present, but among other world leaders he probably has more influence and respect than any American President since Eisenhower.

Now consider a less emotive crisis, but one that encapsulates all the others: the plunge in Western stock markets and the threat of global recession. It now seems quite probable that a genuine bear market is in progress. Judging by historical precedents, including 1987, this would imply that share prices will ultimately

fall by at least 35 per cent from their recent peaks.

But even if I could state with absolute certainty that shares would fall by 35 per cent (and, in reality, my opinion about this may be no better than yours), does this really mean that disaster lies ahead? For a start, all the main stock market indices in America and Europe are already some 15 to 20 per cent below the peaks they hit earlier this summer. That means that roughly half the fall which might be expected in an average bear market has already occurred. This does not mean it is sensible to buy shares at today's prices. But it does mean that the stock market is now in a state where the glass can be seen as half empty or half full. And it means that a large proportion of the psychological and financial damage expected from a bear market is already behind us — yet the world still goes around.

Anatole Kaletsky

There is another way of seeing that the economic glass is half full, rather than half empty — at least in Britain, America and other Western countries. If one thinks back to 1987, the collapse in stock markets did not presage a recession in America, Britain or any other country. There was a bit of an economic slowdown after 1987 in most countries (though not in Britain) and the same is likely to happen next year. But the global recession that eventually occurred in the 1990s was neither caused, nor foreshadowed, by the Black Monday crash.

The causes of the last recession were completely different in each country. The only factor that they all had in common was that, around the world, inflation was accelerating slightly by the late 1980s, contrary to the predictions of deflation made immediately after the 1987 crash. The invasion of Kuwait briefly shattered business confidence in the United States. In Britain the recession was caused by Nigel Lawson's misjudgments and then hugely aggravated

by John Major's decision to join the ERM. In Europe the recession was caused by the preparations for monetary union. Only in Japan did recession have anything to do with a stock-market crash, and even there the problem was vastly aggravated by incompetence at the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan.

The moral of this experience is that recessions are generally caused by accelerating inflation or economic policy mistakes, not by stock-market crashes or other purely financial phenomena. As for the stock markets' ability to foresee recessions years before the event, Paul Samuelson, the renowned American economist, came up with a famous dictum in the

1960s: "The stock market has predicted six of the last two recessions".

But what about Asia and Russia? There economic conditions certainly are dire. But again we must ask the same question to put matters in perspective. How much of the collapse has already happened? Do the biggest disasters still lie ahead, or is the worst news already in the past?

The answers are probably very different for each country. Most Asian economies are unlikely to grow for another year or two and will take a decade or more to return to the prosperity of the past. But economic conditions are unlikely to deteriorate much further — most of these countries have already hit rock bottom or are very near to doing so. This is also true of Japan, although it is up to the new Government whether recovery takes a year or three years to begin.

In Russia, by contrast, the crisis has only just started and if there is one part of the world that does justify all the prophecies of doom, this obviously is it.

Russia today is an economic and political disaster. But the country has lived in a state of continuous economic disaster throughout this century, as discussed in Professor Norman Stone's article on this page. As for pol-

itics, the hopes awakened under Mikhail Gorbachev of gradually transforming Russia into a democratic law-governed state, were effectively snuffed out when Boris Yeltsin seized power after the 1991 coup and then refashioned the constitution at gunpoint in 1993.

Everything that has happened to the Russian economy since then has been the more or less inevitable consequence of Yeltsin's decision to demolish the Soviet system without the faintest idea of how to recreate a functioning State with even a minimal administrative honesty and respect for laws and contracts.

The past five years may have created a gloss of prosperity on the streets of Moscow, but the only real economic benefit from the reforms of the Yeltsin period went to the robber barons who were ruthless and shrewd enough to take advantage of the political instability and lawlessness to get their hands on Russia's assets.

Of course the political consequences of upheavals in Russia can never be certain. But the chances of a return to communism or even anti-Western nationalism in the near future must be very slim — if only because Russia is now so weak economically, administratively and (as seen in Chechnya) even militarily — that an overtly anti-Western policy, far from returning it to superpower status, would reduce it to the level of a terrorist pariah state.

Far more likely, as even Aleksandr Lebed has made clear, would be a return to some degree of state planning and corporatism combined with a generally co-operative relationship with the West. From this point of view, the West might do well to forget about the financial and budgetary conditions of the International Monetary Fund. Instead of vainly issuing warnings about economic disasters and harping on about "market reform", the West should insist that economic co-operation with the Russian governments of the future be based on political, not economic conditions: responsible foreign policy, reasonably honest government and respect for human rights. If Russia could achieve these goals, then even the average Russian's glass of vodka might start to look half full, instead of half empty.

# Divided and ruled?

## Magnus Linklater on the role of royalty in a devolved Scotland

The Sunday papers arrive late at Balmoral, so the story on the front page of *The Sunday Times* Scottish edition may not have come in time to spoil Tony Blair's breakfast. It should, however, have prompted a lively discussion during his morning stroll with the Queen.

The Prince of Wales, the report said, had asked for a meeting with the leader of the Scottish National Party to discuss its plans for the monarchy in an independent Scotland. Mr Blair will doubtless have assured the Queen that the prospect remains a remote one. But with the SNP leading in the polls, this is more than just an exercise for constitutionalists. For Labour, too, the relationship between the Queen and her Scottish subjects is a delicate issue.

It is not that the Scots are republican by instinct. Most recent opinion polls have shown that a majority still favours the monarchy. But one commissioned for Carlton Television last year suggested that 50 per cent were against, with only 46 per cent in favour, and it was quite noticeable that the anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, was a far more muted affair north of the border than elsewhere. The relationship between the Sovereign and the Scottish people — particularly the young — may well be changing in tune with the new political mood.

The SNP says it would test opinion in a referendum that would ask the electorate whether it wants a "streamlined" Swedish-style monarchy or to take the first steps towards an elected President and a republic. Alex Salmond, the party's leader, has said he favours a monarchy "without the royal prerogative", meaning, presumably, that the Queen would remain head of state, but would be deprived of the last vestiges of her constitutional role. Whether she would readily agree to serve as a purely ceremonial figure in one part of a splintered state is another matter. A more pressing question for Mr Salmond is whether his party will allow him even this concession. At least one of his fellow MPs, Roseanna Cunningham, and a large swath of his supporters, are avowed republicans. At the SNP conference this month Mr Salmond's pro-monarchist stand is likely to come under considerable pressure.

Were I a delegate, I might press him on the intriguing question of whether he would, as well as abolishing the royal prerogative, seek to tear up the revolution settlement of 1689 which handed the Crown of Scotland to the Protestant William of Orange and barred the throne to Roman Catholics. The SNP has begun to pick up support from Scottish Catholics who have traditionally been anti-Nationalist. A recent poll showed that a surprising 58 per cent of them would vote "yes" in any referendum on independence, compared to 51 per cent of Protestants. The Catholic vote is especially important in the urban areas of west Scotland, which the SNP has to win if it is to have any chance of power in a new parliament.

So one topic of conversation with the Prince of Wales might be how to fashion a non-denominational monarchy in an independent Scotland. Mr Salmond might find the Prince receptive to this idea since he is on record as saying "I've always felt that the Catholic subjects of the sovereign are equally as important as the Anglican ones". He has promised to be a Defender of Faith, not the Faith, and of course the Park-Bowles family (though not Camilla) are staunchly Catholic.

Enough, then, to occupy a lengthy tête-à-tête between the king-in-waiting and an aspiring Prime Minister, even before the conversation has moved on to the tricky area of land ownership, and the SNP's plans for wholesale reform. It will not be enough for Labour to dismiss all this as irrelevant nonsense. What the Government proposes for the monarchy in a devolved Scotland is not substantially different from Mr Salmond's own plans. With a fixed-term parliament, and a Presiding Officer (or Speaker) to dissolve it, the Queen's role in Scotland will be far less significant than it is for a Westminster government. The Royal Assent is written into the Scotland Bill, but this will be little more than a rubber-stamp. There will be no Scottish Privy Council. Scotland is already well on the way towards a Swedish model, whatever the SNP proposes.

One key question remains for both parties. As Vernon Bogdanov points out in his book *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, the most important function of the Sovereign is a symbolic one. It represents not just the State but the nation. It interprets the country to itself and is the way it expresses itself to the outside world; the ceremony with which it does so is the means by which it distinguishes between what Walter Bagehot called the "efficient" and the "dignified" elements of the constitution.

You cannot strip the monarchy of all its clothes and still expect it to carry out the same role as before. The manner in which the Prince's role as future king evolves, whether in the style envisaged by the SNP or that proposed by Labour, will have a deep effect on the way in which the new Scotland presents itself to the world. Sooner or later it will have to decide what kind of a nation it wants to be.

# Rhyme & dine

HAS Neil Kinnock found his true calling at last? The European Transport Commissioner is to give a poetry reading next week in London. The venue, however, is far from promising: his recital of love poems will take place in a curry house in Soho. Mind you, for £40 a head, Kinnock's fans will not only be able to enjoy hearing him trying to get his tongue around iambic pentameter but also an eat-as-much-as-you-can Indian buffet.

The former Labour leader has not yet finalised his poetic selection but thinks it will probably include some Rossetti and Shakespeare's *Sonnet 29*. The bard's words chime with Kinnock: "When in disgrace with Fortune and men's eyes, I all alone beweep my outcast state, And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries, And look upon myself and curse my fate."

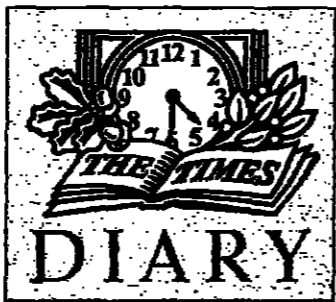
Whether his audience warms to Kinnock as Muse is immaterial: the evening will raise money for one of Glenys's worthy causes. But I recommend avoiding any heckling. Once, on a visit to a curry house in Ealing, Kinnock was accosted by a couple of youths. They soon discovered that they had picked the wrong target after he

bundled them outside and gave them a piece of his mind.

● LORD WEDGWOOD is heartily sea-sick. The Conservative peer is unable to fill his seat in the hastily reconvened Lords today because he is halfway across the Atlantic on the QE2. The scion of the pottery dynasty has been frantically investigating the chances of being winched off the ship by helicopter. I am glad to see Lord Wedgwood is



"Kiss the blarney stone? No, suppose he gets carried away!"



remaining true to his family motto: I split asunder obstacles.

## A new leaf

A SOCIAL worker has been paid £100,000 for two novels. Jake Arnott, from Buckinghamshire, was signed up by Hodder Headline after its editors read *The London Firm*, a tale of a gay gangster operating in the capital in the Sixties. His CV contains few literary entries. As well as spells on building sites as a hod-carrier, Arnott has worked as a mortuary technician, sign-language interpreter and a film extra. "I haven't had much of a career structure," he admits. "I once played a mummy on set." Understandably, he handed his notice in yesterday.

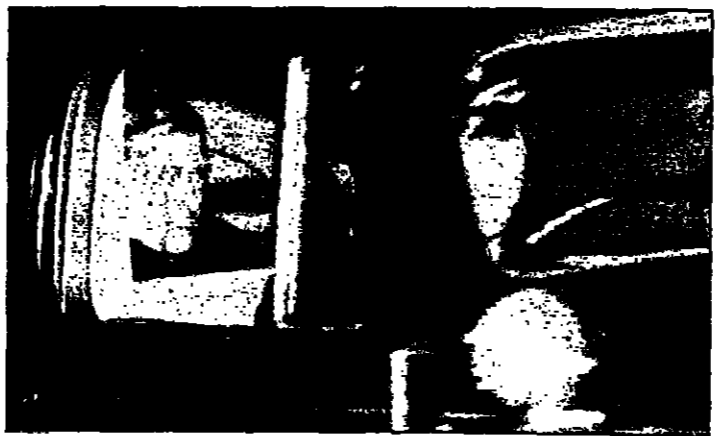
● POOR Max Hastings. The Editor of the Evening Standard has

had to cut short his summer break following the death of his boss, Lord Rothermere. His attempt at R&R in June was also brought to an abrupt end by the death of Sir David English, Rothermere's number two. The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, again saw him hurrying back to his London newspaper, the sultan lotion barely touched. I suggest his passport be impounded immediately.

## House moves

LORD DE RAMSEY has a unique approach to conservation in his own back yard. The chairman of the Environment Agency is converting large chunks of his land into a housing estate. He plans to build more than 30 McMansions, with thatched roofs and "large his-and-her principal bedrooms", at a price of £350,000 each.

I am sure his ambitions are entirely in accordance with the agency's charter. The quango is required, among other things, to "contribute to the conservation of nature, landscape and archaeological heritage". Protecting flora and fauna is also within its remit. De Ramsey was appointed by John Major in 1995. Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, will no doubt be equally impressed by the builder's green credentials when his post comes up for renewal.



THE Buick 8 used by the Prince of Wales while he wooed Wallis Simpson is to be sold this month for between £50,000 and £60,000 by Coys, the auctioneer, in Switzerland. Trimmings include cocktail cabinets, chrome reading lamps and silk blinds for privacy. An appropriate coda in the elegant motor's history is that it also carried King Edward VIII to and from Windsor Castle to make his abdication speech in 1936.

● DEREK DRAPER'S summer of shame has failed to dim his star. I knocked into him the other night merrily rubbing shoulders with Prince Edward at the party to celebrate the merger of the royal jewelers, Asprey & Garrard.

## Out of bounds

NEWTON AYCLIFFE is an official secret. A teenager researching

a school project into the town's origins received the Soviet-style response that she could not see the relevant papers because of "national security". Apparently, the New Town Commission keeps official documents on Newton Aycliffe and its ilk under lock and key for 50 years. Hurling along the MI past Milton Keynes the other day, I can see the need for such secrecy.

EDWARD WELSH

سكنا من الاصل



## IN RUSSIA'S AGONY

A nation gripped by fears of remembered evils

Before the visiting President Clinton's eyes, what started as a mishandled currency crisis is turning into a constitutional confrontation of unpredictable severity. Although President Yeltsin has been visibly more assured than he was last week, in all Mr Clinton's extensive political soundings in Moscow he has encountered taut nerves, the conviction that worse is yet to come and rising fears of a popular explosion of anger and frustration if the jerry-built foundations of Russian capitalism fall. *Kommersant*, the main business paper, declares that Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader in the Duma, is "ready for war". Mr Zyuganov, in turn, accuses Mr Yeltsin of risking civil conflict.

The Duma's rebellion against President Yeltsin's decision to bring back Viktor Chernomyrdin has already produced semi-breakdown in all the institutions of the State: the vacuum in Moscow has weakened federal authority to the point where some regions are openly defiant. Unpaid army conscripts, civil servants and striking miners are joined in anger by a new middle class faced with the loss of its savings. The situation, Mr Clinton was told by Aleksandr Lebed, the former general who now governs Krasnoyarsk, "is worse than 1917".

Mr Lebed is an ambitious presidential hopeful given to rhetorical hyperbole. His historical parallel is dubious. One of contemporary Russia's problems, its weak institutions, could paradoxically also protect it: the Bolsheviks bluffed their way to victory in the 1917 revolution, and Russia today lacks even their level of organisation. The Communists have the remnants of one, but lack the revolutionary drive, the credibility and the weapons to force a change of regime. The outgoing Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, may indeed have lasted less time than the Kerensky government, but beyond that the echoes of 1917 fade. Mr Lebed himself was mainly concerned to shock Mr Clinton into pressing for any compromise that avoids the dissolution of the Duma. His argument is that "all branches of power are in one boat", have a common interest in not upsetting the fragile political balance, and that dissolution of the Duma would be "suicide".

Of compromise, however, there is no sign. Not only is the Duma virtually certain to reject Mr Chernomyrdin a second time on Friday, Mr Zyuganov is straining every muscle to get the two-thirds vote needed to start impeachment proceedings against the President — a step that, under the Constitution, would bar the President from dissolving parliament. Mr Yeltsin could be tempted to use his power to dissolve the Duma without waiting for a third vote, declare a state of emergency and govern by decree. If the deputies then refused to be dislodged, another disconcerting historical parallel suggests itself — not with October 1917, but with October 1993. Would people rush into the streets to denounce the despised Duma, or to defend it against a President held in rising contempt? Would Mr Yeltsin again summon the army, and if he did, would the troops, who according to Mr Lebed are "in revolutionary mood", obey as unquestioningly as they did in 1993?

That parallel, too, looks implausible for several reasons. Unless there is uncontrollable rioting, which is less likely in relatively well-watered Moscow than elsewhere in the country, Mr Yeltsin is unlikely to call in troops, and not merely because he could not count on their loyalty. He has never been more than a reluctant autocrat and it should not be forgotten that in 1993, he did not summon troops until the Duma had first itself taken up arms and seized a television station. The second is that while the army is heartily disenchanted with Mr Yeltsin, its leaders — including Mr Lebed — have no love for the Communists either. The root of today's confrontation is not so much between White House and Kremlin, as between modernisers and hardliners whose defiance of the laws of economic gravity most Russians know to be unworkable. For the army, revolution must still seem the wrong answer to Lenin's question: "What is to be done?" If it looked to Mr Lebed for a lead, his instincts lean towards the modernisers. In Russia's agony, were Mr Yeltsin to run through the last of his nine lives, his would-be successors would probably prefer the mantle of de Gaulle to that of General Pinochet.

## JUDGMENT ON GENOCIDE

First convictions in the pursuit of arch-criminals

A landmark in the history of international criminal law was reached yesterday in Arusha, when the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found Jean Paul Akayesu guilty of the crime of genocide. Tomorrow, sentence will be passed in the important case of Jean Kambanda, Rwanda's prime minister in 1994, who in May became the first person to plead guilty to genocide and crimes against humanity.

The wheels of justice have ground miserably slow, and not only for the survivors of the 1994 massacres of about 800,000 mainly Tutsi Rwandans. Fifty years after the UN Convention on Genocide was adopted in the shadow of the Holocaust, these are the first such judgments ever to be handed down by an international court. It is a sign that justice need no longer be a pious hope; yet even now, those who unleash the mass murder of a people are vastly more likely to escape punishment than those who in normal life commit an individual murder.

The precedent created is still important. As with the Hague tribunal on former Yugoslavia, establishing a credible court has not been easy. The panel of judges has had to feel its way, developing rules of procedure, defining the precise nature of a crime, and obtaining reliable testimony from scared witnesses who must not only relive scenes from hell in court, but then return home with, in most cases, no form of protection. The 31 Rwandans in Arusha's custody had to be extradited from countries as various as Cameroon, Zambia, Belgium and Switzerland.

Arusha, which until recently lacked such basic facilities as telephones, trained staff, enough courtrooms and even a prison, was probably a mistaken location. Proceedings have been absurdly slow. A Swedish judge has resigned, complaining of rank mis-

management which the UN also identified but claims has been rectified. These lessons must be learnt. But even if Akayesu, the former mayor of Taba commune in central Rwanda who has been convicted of the systematic killing of 2,000 people, was a minor although fully engaged agent in the Rwanda massacres, Arusha has had more success than The Hague in rounding up the main players. Kambanda's defence minister, Theoneste Bagosora, has joined him in detention — in striking contrast, Nato governments should note, to the liberty still enjoyed by the Rwandans' Serbian counterparts, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

The international nature of the effort commands respect, as do the pains taken to ensure impartiality. Questions are bound to remain, the most obvious being what justice is rendered when a few prominent criminals are convicted for a crime in which almost all Rwanda's Hutus participated, and what justice can ever be done in such cases? One partial answer is that it matters greatly that the Rwandan massacres be exposed in court for what they were, the most evidently planned genocide since the Nazis. Another is that showing that impunity cannot be taken for granted has a deterrent effect. The second great question is why Rwanda and former Yugoslavia, but not Liberia, Iraq or Cambodia? The permanent International Criminal Court formally instituted by the UN last July is, in the form proposed, too seriously flawed to be a workable response. It augurs badly that its statutes had to be put to a vote, with 21 countries abstaining and seven, including the US, voting against. The international dimensions of criminal justice are winning wider recognition; but Arusha required global support to secure these first convictions. In this sensitive new legal arena, it is as well to learn first to walk.

## MAN'S SECOND OLDEST FRIEND

Or what they like to eat in Vicenza

As long ago as 1500 BC, the ancient Egyptians saw their cats as manifestations of the fabled goddess Bast and imposed the death penalty on anyone who killed the sacred creature, even by accident. A thousand years later the cat had entwined itself sand years later the cat had entwined itself into the culture of classical Greece. In ancient Rome it was a symbol of liberty. And the earliest record of cats in Britain dates back a millennium to when Howel Dda, prince of south central Wales, passed a law protecting them. Since then they have purred in the lap of a nation's affections. The predator has become Britain's favourite pet, feted in legends, poems and nursery rhymes. Yet the cat is also stalked by superstition and rumour. Regarded as a witch's familiar and an ill omen, it has been more cruelly mistreated than most other domestic animals. When in *Much Ado About Nothing* Shakespeare wrote "hang me in a bottle like a cat" he was referring to the unpleasant sport of suspending a cat in a leather bag and using it for marksmanship practice.

There are still many who stand aloof from the feline. As proof of its contrary and capricious nature, they claim that the cat

likes to taunt them, rubbing against their legs, rasping their faces, assiduously ignoring any cat lovers in the room. A report published today disproving this commonly held conviction is unlikely to do anything to reinstate the cat in their affections.

Convinced allurophobes or cat haters may approve of the cuisine in the Italian town of Vicenza. A newly published cookery book lets the cat out of the bag by revealing the nature of the town's most exotic culinary delicacy. Baden Powell, besieged in Mafeking, may have discovered out of necessity that there are more ways than one to cook a cat, but in Vicenza the creature becomes a choice cut when well stewed in white wine with garlic sage and rosemary.

To the squeamish this dish will sound like a dog's dinner. They will stick to the spaghetti. The feline has served man well as a household predator for more than three millennia. To turn cat-in-pan on it now would be to offer poor reward. The cat may be despised by some for its indifference and independence. But if the Vicenza cookery book is anything to go by, the cat was only too wise to have always walked alone.

## Power abuse risk in terrorism Bill

From Mr John Hardy

Sir, Clause 5 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill being debated today by the House of Commons marks a new departure for Parliament: if it is enacted in its present form it will constitute the most significant cessation of territorial sovereignty ever countenanced by our criminal law.

The clause will make it an offence for two or more persons to agree in the United Kingdom to commit an act in a foreign state which contravenes the law of that state, notwithstanding that the same act, if committed here, need not be an offence at all.

Even under the provisions of the Extradition Act 1989, a person accused of committing a crime in a foreign state may not be returned to that state unless the conduct of which he is accused would, if committed here, constitute an offence punishable by 12 months' imprisonment or more. Thus, for example, a request from a Commonwealth country for the return of a person accused of trespassing upon the sensitivities of one of that country's senior politicians would fail, because the equivalent conduct in the United Kingdom would not, thankfully, constitute a criminal offence.

Clause 5, however, dispenses with the protection of reciprocity. A deceptively secure safeguard has been built into the clause: prosecutions in the United Kingdom would require the consent of the Attorney-General. But this safeguard is seriously undermined by the following sub-clause which enables the Home Secretary to override that requirement. Thus the exactitudes of law are made potentially subject to the whims of political expediency.

History has repeatedly taught us that all such powers, however well-intentioned may be their conception, are ultimately abused. If Labour backbenchers fail to prevent the enactment of this clause, or at least to amend it by introducing a reciprocity requirement, we can only hope that common sense will prevail in the Lords.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN HARDY,  
3 Raymond Buildings,  
Gray's Inn, WC1R 5BH,  
September 2.

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, So the Government proposes that the evidence of a senior police officer as to membership of a proscribed organisation should be tested in court to the full (report, September 2). This must mean, but may not be intended to mean, that the police officer giving evidence may be cross-examined as to the sources of his belief and the grounds for it. This in turn will result in the admission of hearsay, and sometimes of hearsay on hearsay, and in the officer revealing the identity of informers.

Ever since the 1798 rebellion in Ireland have had a poor expectation of life. But if they are not named and particulars about them not revealed, the jury will have little material upon which to assess the value of the police officer's belief.

Yours truly,  
FREDERICK LAWTON,  
1 The Village, Skelton, York YO3 6XX,  
September 2.

## Court computers

From His Honour Judge Paul Collins

Sir, I am sorry that your correspondent understands "that the Court Service expects some resistance to the new technology from Crown Court judges" (report, August 21). This letter comes to you from France. This is the computer supplied to me (as to over 400 of the 1,100 full-time judges) by the Court Service; very many of my colleagues have been waiting an unconscionable time for machines which are now being supplied.

The resident judge in every Crown Court centre, or his nominee, has a computer with e-mail facility, to join in conferencing with other judges or discuss Crown Court matters with the senior presiding judge. Circuit judges have been a driving force for the use of computers in the administration and procedure in the Crown Courts.

While Crown Court Judges may be surprised that a consultation document for changes in the Crown Court should be published without their having been intimately involved in its preparation, they will not resist the provision of the technology for which they have been pressing so cogently.

Yours etc,  
PAUL COLLINS  
(Director of Studies,  
Judicial Studies Board;  
committee member,  
Council of HM Circuit Judges).  
As from Judicial Studies Board,  
9th floor, Millbank Tower,  
Millbank, SW1P 4QU,  
dstudies@jic.computlink.co.uk

From Mrs Penelope A. Walker, JP  
Sir, More than 95 per cent of all criminal cases begin in the magistrates' courts. Would it not therefore make more sense for computers to be provided for lower courts?  
Magistrates' courts committees have often requested computers but are always refused because, they are told, "funding cannot be found".

Yours faithfully,  
PENELOPE A. WALKER,  
Honeywood House, Mill Lane,  
St Ippolyts, nr Hitchin, SG4 7NN,  
August 28.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Failures as a guide to GCSE success

From Mr E. P. C. Greene

Sir, In your leading article, "The roots of failure" (August 28), you commented that "the GCSE's tenth anniversary was marred by the revelation that the number of exam failures has risen by over 50 per cent", adding that it was "depressing news for a Government committed to lowering the number of pupils who leave school without any qualifications".

A rise in the "failure" rate from 1.5 per cent to 2.3 per cent would more realistically, if less sensationally, be described as a fall in the "pass" rate of less than 1 per cent. Be that as it may, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, in the same post as that which announced this fearsome rise in failure rates, sent a letter to all secondary schools in England drawing attention to the availability from next month of a new examination "below the level of a GCSE pass". Success in this will lead to the award of a Certificate of Achievement in the subject offered.

The GCSE was introduced ten years ago so that some pupils should not have to suffer the stigma of having only CSEs when others had O levels; all would now have qualifications with the same name. How long will it be before the Certificate of Achievement, soon to be awarded to the 2.3 per cent unable to pass GCSE, will on the same grounds have to be amalgamated with it? Will another qualification then have to be introduced if its tenth birthday is also marred by the odd failure?

Yours faithfully,  
E. P. C. GREENE  
(Master), Edward Greene's  
Tutorial Establishment,  
45 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP,  
master@edward-greene.ac.uk  
September 1.

From Mr A. R. Hawkes

Sir, I wonder if there is a connection between the increasing number of total failures in GCSE and the increasing popularity of syllabuses that involve a sizeable component of coursework.

## Russian fallout

From Dr Mark Galeotti

Sir, Your correspondent Robin Lodge (report, September 1) is right to say it is not only the crooks who benefited from Russia's shift to the free market. Unfortunately, it looks as if only those "mafija rich" Russians are going to weather the present economic storm.

The major criminal organisations and godfathers — much of whose wealth is abroad — are likely to be able to use the collapse of the economy to snap up what remaining assets they do not already own at bargain-basement prices. As for the middle-ranking criminals, we are already beginning to see them move out of the country into the second (and third, and fourth...) homes they bought abroad against just such an eventuality.

The depressing truth is that Russia's crisis is not just a danger to the legal international economy, it is playing its part in spreading the diaspora of Russian crime across the world.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK GALEOTTI  
(Director), Organised Russian and  
Eurasian Crime Research Unit,  
Keble University,  
Staffordshire ST5 5BG.

## FO telegrams

From Mr Simon Mallett

Sir, E-mail connections at £312,212.19 per embassy (letters, August 26)? Certainly not.

I was employed by the British Embassy in Paris to run its computer system from 1992 till 1994. I had enthusiastic support from the embassy staff for the use of e-mail within the embassy; and with the reluctant agreement of the security section in London we went national with e-mail throughout France.

The estimated savings were £300 per week over the equivalent cost of phone and fax, let alone the convenience.

The cost? About a day of my time in

Whatever its apparent merits, coursework clearly puts at disadvantage candidates from deprived or unsupportive homes where the domestic situation may not be conducive to the care and concentration that are essential to success.

Furthermore, should a young person undergo an 11th-hour conversion to seeing the advantages of passing the GCSE, it will simply be too late to produce the body of work that other students have been putting together over the five terms that precede the closing date.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. HAWKES,  
Birchwood,  
Sutherland Road,  
Longsons, Stoke-on-Trent ST9 9QD,  
August 28.

From Mr Alan Sharples

Sir, In my view, apart from mathematics and English, externally assessed exams at 16 should be got rid of once and for all.

There is no real vocational path nowadays for school-leavers possessing GCSEs. Even when there was, numeracy and literacy were the prime *de facto* requirements.

The GCSE phase is the beginning of premature specialisation which is the plague of English education. It replaces the potential of an enjoyable educational experience (real teaching) with an exam-drill culture which is particularly bad in the public schools. In addition, it fosters bad study habits. Basic knowledge and concepts have to be learnt in any subject, some by heart, but acquiring the skill of learning intelligently is far more important, especially in the sciences.

We should concentrate on mathematical skill and English proficiency, expose children to a full spectrum of educational experiences and do away with this ridiculous exam hysteria.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN SHARPLES,  
Rue Albert-Elisabeth 66,  
1200 Woluwe St Lambert, Brussels.  
alan.sharples@digital.com  
September 2.

From Mr Ian Runagall

Sir, Professor Alexander Kernway is absolutely correct in maintaining that funds from the West were "wasted" in Russian chaos (letter, August 24). However Russia, with her massive, decrepit stockpile of nuclear weapons, has the West over a barrel. Nuclear weapons in the hands of a tyrant are bad enough; in the hands of an economically and politically disintegrating State with no accountability, they are a nightmare.

The West and the International Monetary Fund will have to continue bailing Russia out financially (through the right channels, not the "fat-cat oligarchs") until her standard of living rises to something akin to that of the West — until she has something to lose.

Yes, the funds are "wasted" from the academic point of view, but surely we should really regard them as an investment — in the future of the human race.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN RUNAGALL,  
Cranford,  
Southdown Hill,  
Brixham, Devon TQ5 0AE,  
ronald.runagall@whicn.net  
August 28.

configuring the equipment and software that exists in all British embassies. However, I am unsurprised at the quoted amount, since the FO tends to listen to its own spin-doctors, whose worth tends to be valued in relation to their cost.

From my knowledge of the FO's penchant for acronymy for all its projects, I would suggest YAMS — Yet Another Money Spinner — for this one; or in French ALOR(E)S — Another Load Of Rubbish (Eventually) Sidelined.

Yours etc,  
SIMON MALLETT,  
182 Park Road,  
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1ES,  
smallett@cableinet.co.uk  
August 26.

## Novel inscription

From Mrs Beth Cushley

Sir, Ms Maeve Binchy was signing copies of her latest book (interview, August 27) at a local store as my husband walked past. On impulse he bought a copy, knowing I was a fan, and joined the queue.

She asked what message he wanted her to write, and when told, "To Beth, From Denis", she looked at him for a long moment, tapped him lightly on the chest with her pen, and said: "Ah, come on now Denis! Beneath that sober suit there beats a heart of passion!" She wrote: "To Beth, with all my fondest love, Denis."

Ms Binchy knew the joy I would feel reading that inscription from my under-demonstrative husband — told to a stranger, in public.

But, woman and author, she would have known, too, that he should not have told me.

Sincerely,  
BETH CUSHLEY,  
8 Hawthorn Drive,  
Belfast BT4 2HG,  
September 2.

## Calm reflection on life of a princess

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, Senator Mitchell commented in your columns (interview, August 26) on the extraordinary redemption of men on both sides of the divide who had committed serious crimes and who, after years in prison, are emerging as pillars of the Northern Ireland peace process.

Shortly thereafter we were treated to radio reports of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Cogan, apparently dismissing Diana, Princess of Wales, as "a false goddess"; and Cardinal Basil Hume saying she was "flawed", but going on to note the good she did (report, August 28).

Perhaps the soundbites I heard did not tell the whole story, but pondering the thought that we are all flawed human beings, and remembering the "flawed" early life of St Augustine before his redemption, one might also express a different assessment: admiration for the way the Princess had grown through extraordinary difficulties, and huge regret that her instinct for good, which had already achieved much, had not been allowed more time to flower.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,  
8 Wellmeade Drive,  
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1QA,  
August 27.

From Dr David Starkey

Sir, Valerie Grove's otherwise accurate account of my remarks (report, September 1), after the incident outside Kensington Palace yesterday, omits a crucial negative.

Her quotation of one of my remarks said Diana had a "series of affairs".

That, of course, alters everything. If I had commented on the late Princess's sex life the crowd's reaction would have been understandable. As it was, one of the policemen escorting me from the scene delivered the best verdict: "These people are not rational like you and me." The rest of Valerie Grove's report amply confirms the fact.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID STARKEY,  
c/o Curtis Brown,  
Haymarket House,  
28/9 Haymarket, SW1Y 4SP,  
September 1.

From Mrs Ann Monica

Sir, I was at Kensington Palace but do not see myself as a Diana "worshipper". Nor were there any "hard core" aggressors there, unless you count people shouting "out, out" after Dr Starkey spoke his provocative and stage-managed words. Their behaviour seemed to me very civilised in the circumstances, where the media are trying to create news out of a non-event.

Such interviews should take place elsewhere, not in a place of reflection, which the Palace was on Monday. Not only should Princess Diana be left in peace, but those who care to mourn her and offer flowers should be left in peace also.

Yours faithfully,  
ANN MONICA,  
57 Manor Fields,  
Braiton, Wiltshire BA13 4ST,  
September 1.

From Commander Roy Davies, RN (ret)

Sir, Surely it is unlikely that calls to cool the emotions and calm the activities surrounding the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, will be heeded, while extracts from a book about Marilyn Monroe, another tragic, talented and beautiful icon, appear in your pages (September 1 and 2) nearly 40 years after her death.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY DAVIES,  
The Old Manor,  
Ham Lane, Bowlish,  
Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5JR,  
September 1.

## Leylandii uses

From Mr Christopher M. Purser

Sir, Attempts to curb the planting of the Cupressus leylandii (letters, August 29) prompt me to point out that such trees have their uses. Their dense and filigree foliage deadens noise and absorbs a useful amount of airborne urban pollutants on to its surface.

Indeed, we could do with a few more of them locally. I am writing this letter within (alas) sight and sound of a bypass road. A few rows of leylandii planted suitably would ameliorate the intrusion in short order.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS PURSER,  
St Oswald's House,  
Sowerby, Thirsk,  
North Yorkshire YO7 1UB,  
August 30.

## Bunkered at outset

From Ms Ann Sheldon

Sir, Being patronised by male golfers is bad enough (letters, August 25; September 1 and 2) but I wonder how many others have, like me, been offered helpful advice by a passing pensioner out walking his whippet?

Yours faithfully,  
ANN SHELDON,  
Four Gables,  
Roman Road, Hereford HR4 9QW,  
September 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE. September 2: The Duke of York, Admiral of the Sea Cadets Corps, this evening presented the prizes at the Sea Cadet Association Sailing Regatta, Port Solent, Portsmouth Harbour, and was received by Commander Colin Bullough RN (Vice...

Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, KENSINGTON PALACE. September 2: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Parkinson's Disease Society, this morning opened the Society's new national office at 215 Vaughan Bridge Road, Westminster, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Gloucester will open the Society of Model and Experimental Engineers (SMEE) centenary exhibition at Brunel University, Uxbridge, at 10.00.

Lister Institute

The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine has awarded its 1998 five-year senior research fellowship in biomedicine to the following: Dr James Boyes, Section of Gene Function and Regulation, Chester Beatty Laboratories, London...

Church in Wales

Disease of Swansea and Brecon. The Rev Howard V. Parsell, Curate of Swansea St Thomas, to be Priest-in-Charge of Swansea, St Jude's and Chaplain to the Mission to the Deaf in Swansea; the Rev Andrew K. Williams, Curate of Swansea St Thomas, to be Curate of Swansea St Thomas.

Appointment

Mr Peter Terry to be Ambassador to Spain in succession to Mr David Brighly who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize-winners were announced yesterday: £100,000: 42CB 363062, winner has a holding of £20,000 and comes from Lincolnshire; 75CB 908831, £19,015, Norfolk; 245P 527034, £1,500, Leicestershire; 71ET 20103, £2,717, Surrey; 17CL 844377, £20,000, Cumbria; 15KB 544549, £3,680, Bristol; 56FR 299343, £2,000, Lancashire...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Matthew Boulton, engineer, Birmingham, 1728; Joseph Wright, painter, Derby, 1734; John Francis, sculptor, Lincolnshire, 1780; James Sylvester, mathematician, London, 1834; James Hanington, first Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, 1847; Louis Henri Sullivan, architect, Boston, Massachusetts, 1856; Jean Jaures, Socialist leader and politician, Castres, France, 1859; Urho Kekkonen, President of Finland, 1952-92; Pielavai, Finland, 1900...

School announcements

Arnold School, Blackpool. The Michaelmas term begins today and will end on December 18, 1998. Caroline MacPhee is Head Girl and James Holgate is Head Boy. Simon Maudsley is Captain of Rugby and Laura Bradbury Captain of Hockey. This term's events include: Launch of the School's Cadet Training Launch, 'Arnoldian' by Elizabeth, Lady Holdgate on September 19; Reception for new parents on September 30; CCF Field Day on October 9; Speech Day with the Right Hon David Mellor, PC, QC, as the Guest of Honour; GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening on October 22 with Right Hon Michael Jack, PC, MP, as Guest of Honour...

Headington School. The Autumn Term at Headington School, Oxford, begins on Thursday, September 3 with Kate Bretherton as Head Girl and Nadia Al-Sabouni and Cheryl Lomas as her deputies. Pledging Giving plans on Friday, October 23 with the guest speaker, Mrs Mary Francis, Deputy Private Secretary to the Queen. The school production of 'Three Stripes' takes place in early December, and term ends on the Charity Sale on Saturday, December 12 and the Carol Service at 3.30pm on Sunday, December 13 at Christ Church Cathedral.

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Prospective Pupils' Morning for entry in September 1999 will be on Saturday, October 17. Long Leave is on October 24-31. The Upper 5th Fashion Show will take place on Thursday, November 12 in the Speech Hall from 7.00pm. The St Catherine's Day Service will be held in Bramley Parish Church on Wednesday, November 25, followed by the House Lacrosse competition. The Senior School concert will be held on Friday, November 27 at 7.30pm. The Carol Service will take place on Tuesday, December 8 at 7.30pm in Guildford Cathedral. Term ends on Thursday, December 10.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.M. Barracough and Miss P.M. Black. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Noel Barracough, of Wellington, Cheshire, and Philippa, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Black, of Manley, Cheshire. Mr J.P. Brokenshire and Miss C.A. Mamelok. The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brokenshire, of Loughton, Essex, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Mamelok, of Chigwell, Essex. Mr M.H. Case and Miss R. Hitchcock. The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs John Case, of Sayers Common, Sussex, and Rosie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Walter Hitchcock, of Northampton. Mr E.M. de la C. de Billiere and Miss P.R. Wooderson. The engagement is announced between Edward, son of General Sir Peter and Lady de la Billiere, and Philippa (Pippa), youngest daughter of the late Rev Tim Wooderson, of Mrs Mrs Wooderson, of Reigate, Surrey. Mr W.J. Francis and Miss N.L. Thomson. The engagement is announced between William, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Francis, of Tonbridge, Kent, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.H. Thomson, of Thorntonhall, Glasgow. Mr E.R. Hayward and Dr S.M. Moss. The engagement is announced between Edmund, son of the late Surgeon-General E.W. Hayward, and Mrs Hayward, of Fairford, Gloucestershire, and Susan, daughter of the late Dr John Moss, and Mrs Moss, of Harpsden, Henley-on-Thames. Mr A.C. Joly and Miss A.C. Atherton. The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Joly, of Bishops Sutton, Hampshire, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Atherton, of Buxton, Derbyshire. Mr D. McCabe and Miss E.A. Roberts. The engagement is announced between Denis, elder son of Mr and Mrs John McCabe, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Elizabeth Anne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Donald James Roberts, of Ashley Heath, Hampshire. Mr D. McEaney and Miss L.R. Seresia. The forthcoming marriage is announced and will take place at Waterfall Bay, New Zealand, between Declan McEaney, of Waterford, Ireland, and Justine Rachel, daughter of Mr Michael Seresia, of Little Venice, London, and Mrs Deirdre Seresin, of Notting Hill, London. Mr N.D. Robertson and Miss N.M. Carmichael. The engagement is announced between Neil, elder son of Mr and Mrs Donald Robertson, of Kilsyth, Middlesex, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Carmichael, of Redford, West Sussex.

Marriages

Mr J.A.L. Cockin and Miss R.J. Jones. The marriage took place in the Chapel, Queens' College, Cambridge, of Mr James Alexander Lister Cockin, son of Mr and Mrs Norma Cockin, of Bromsgrove, to Miss Rebecca Julia Jones, daughter of Professor and Mrs George Jones, of Highgate, London. The bride was attended by Sarah Norton Jones and Olivia Cockin. Mr Richard Chatfield was best man. Reception was held at Downing College. Mr J. Fradera and Miss G.M. Bryan-Brown. The marriage took place on Friday, July 3, at Nuestra Señora de los Angeles, Barcelona, of Juan Fradera, second son of Mr Manuel Fradera and Mrs Maria del Carmen Alonso, to Georgina Bryan-Brown, third daughter of the late Mr Michael Bryan-Brown and of Mrs Bryan-Brown. Mr R.C.B. Hartley and Miss J.C.G. Tindall. The marriage took place on Saturday, August 22, at the Chapel, Magdalene, Cambridge, of Mr Richard Hartley, of Sydling St Nicholas, Dorset, and Miss Julia Tindall, of Waterston Manor, Dorset. A reception was held in the Karoo Desert. Professor J.G. McVie and Mrs C.J. Burke. The marriage took place on August 23 at Redland Parish Church, Bristol, between Gordon McVie and Claudia Burke.

Dean Close School. Michaelmas Term begins today. The Rev Timothy Hastie-Smith becomes Headmaster. Paul Marshand is Head of School with Rebecca Orr and Ben Hall as his deputies. Mr J.P. Watson becomes Housemaster of Court and Mr N.P. Moor that of Brook. There will be Open Days on September 9 and September 29 and the Entrance and Scholarship Examinations for Sixth Form on November 16. The Choir will sing Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral on October 12. The 'Dumb Waiter' on September 11 and 12, 'The Importance of Being Earnest' on October 16 and 17 and 'The Duchess of Malfi' on November 19 and 20 will be produced in the Bacon Theatre. The Choral Society Concert (Christmas Oratorio) takes place on November 29 and the Advent Concert on December 4 and 5 and term will conclude with Carols by Candlelight on December 7 and 8.

Dulwich College. The Michaelmas Term begins today. Samuel Roberts continues as School Captain, Christopher King is Captain of Rugby Football and William Burghes is Captain of Boats. The Friends of Dulwich College Fête will be Sunday, September 20. Middle School Prizing will be on October 2 when the Guest of Honour will be Sir James Swaffield, CBE, RD, DL. The Winter Concert at the Fairfield Hall will be on November 30. A reunion for those who were at Dulwich 1966-1986 will be held at the College on Saturday, September 19. The 116th Annual Dinner of the Alcey Club will be held at the College on Friday, October 20. Half Term is Saturday, October 17, and ends on Sunday, October 18. Term ends on Friday, December 18.

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Woodbridge School. Term starts at Woodbridge School today. The Head and Deputy Head of School are Paul Simpson and Sarah Crowley. Speech Day is on Saturday, September 19, when the Guest Service is Julie Jeanne d'Auvergne Campbell, and Open Day is on Saturday, October 3. Woodbridge hosts the East Anglian Schools Hunter Trials at Poplar Park on October 15. The Chamber Choir performs 'Vivaldi's Gloria' with the Orchestra of Bishops Sutton, Hampshire, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Atherton, of Buxton, Derbyshire. Mr D. McCabe and Miss E.A. Roberts. The engagement is announced between Denis, elder son of Mr and Mrs John McCabe, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Elizabeth Anne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Donald James Roberts, of Ashley Heath, Hampshire. Mr D. McEaney and Miss L.R. Seresia. The forthcoming marriage is announced and will take place at Waterfall Bay, New Zealand, between Declan McEaney, of Waterford, Ireland, and Justine Rachel, daughter of Mr Michael Seresia, of Little Venice, London, and Mrs Deirdre Seresin, of Notting Hill, London. Mr N.D. Robertson and Miss N.M. Carmichael. The engagement is announced between Neil, elder son of Mr and Mrs Donald Robertson, of Kilsyth, Middlesex, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Carmichael, of Redford, West Sussex.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

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DEATHS

BOND - On 31st August in London, aged 94, Mrs. Wadsworth suddenly and peacefully, beloved widow of the late Arthur Bond, a great loss to his beloved friend Ann. Died on 29th August 1998. Burial at Tewkesbury Abbey, on Tuesday 9th September at 2.30 pm. Private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if wished, to Tewkesbury Abbey Restoration Appeal or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. GOODWIN - On August 28th at Bechill Hospital, Joan, wife of Alan, passed peacefully away after a long illness bravely borne. Cremation at Eastbourne on Tuesday September 8th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of the Midlands, 31 Devonshire Road, Bechill-on-Sea TN40 4AL. GREEN - Patricia, on August 28th 1998 peacefully at home, wife of the late Tony Green, dearly loved mother of Diane, grandmother of William and Ruth and mother-in-law of John. Very much missed by her family and friends. Thanking Service to be held on Friday September 11th, 3pm at St Helen's Church, Clifford Cliffs, Stratford-upon-Avon. Donations, if desired, would be welcomed for St Helen's or Arthritis Care or Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o A.E. Bennett and Sons, Tel: 01789 267035. KEAST - Tamara, much loved mother of Susan and Jess, after a long illness on 1st September aged 81. Cremation at Bechhampton Crematorium on Monday 7th September at 4.00pm. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to London Green Ward, 4th Floor, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 1UL. Enquiries: 0181 318 6187.

DEATHS

GOFFREY-JONES - L.E. (Tony), much loved father and grandfather of son Robin and family and daughter Deborah. A great loss to his beloved friend Ann. Died on 29th August 1998. Burial at Tewkesbury Abbey, on Tuesday 9th September at 2.30 pm. Private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if wished, to Tewkesbury Abbey Restoration Appeal or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. GOODWIN - On August 28th at Bechill Hospital, Joan, wife of Alan, passed peacefully away after a long illness bravely borne. Cremation at Eastbourne on Tuesday September 8th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of the Midlands, 31 Devonshire Road, Bechill-on-Sea TN40 4AL. GREEN - Patricia, on August 28th 1998 peacefully at home, wife of the late Tony Green, dearly loved mother of Diane, grandmother of William and Ruth and mother-in-law of John. Very much missed by her family and friends. Thanking Service to be held on Friday September 11th, 3pm at St Helen's Church, Clifford Cliffs, Stratford-upon-Avon. Donations, if desired, would be welcomed for St Helen's or Arthritis Care or Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o A.E. Bennett and Sons, Tel: 01789 267035. KEAST - Tamara, much loved mother of Susan and Jess, after a long illness on 1st September aged 81. Cremation at Bechhampton Crematorium on Monday 7th September at 4.00pm. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to London Green Ward, 4th Floor, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 1UL. Enquiries: 0181 318 6187.

DEATHS

MITCHELL - On August 29th 1998 peacefully at a Nursing Home, Hove, Alan Alexander Mitchell, a great loss to his wife Sylvia and his children, Mary Mitchell, a daughter, and brother of the late Mervyn Mitchell, 2.00pm Wednesday September 9th, Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. MUIR - Damien Main, aged 51, beloved of Susan and father of Richard, on August 31st 1998 at the Auckland Morley Hospital. His wit, warmth and infectious sense of humour will be missed by his many friends and his family. Cremation at Eastbourne on Tuesday September 8th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of the Midlands, 31 Devonshire Road, Bechill-on-Sea TN40 4AL. NEWTON - On 31st August at Thamesfield Hospital, aged 90 Sir Leslie Gordon Newton widower of the late Peggy Newton, father of the late Henry Newton, a great loss to his family and friends. Cremation at Eastbourne on Tuesday September 8th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of the Midlands, 31 Devonshire Road, Bechill-on-Sea TN40 4AL. OSMOND - Martin A. Beckert, on August 28th died of cancer in Geneva. Beloved husband of Sylvia, father of Charles, Richard, Carolyn, Roselyn and brother of Rosslyn and Charmian. POUND - Joan Lesley peacefully on 18th August 1998. Sadly missed by her family and friends. Burial at Bechill-on-Sea on Friday 11th September at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to London Green Ward, 4th Floor, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 1UL. Enquiries: 0181 318 6187.

DEATHS

ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985.

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ROBERTS DAWN - On August 30th, to Robert (nick name John), a son, Alexander Richard, 8lbs 15oz. A baby brother for Alice Mary. BIRNOST - On Monday 3rd August at University College Hospital to Charles and Janette a son, BROUHAERT - On August 27th at The Portland Hospital to Anne (nee Harry) and Chris, a daughter, Francesca, a sister for Charlotte. BROWNLOW - On August 24th 1998 to Amanda (nee Watson) and Jamie, a daughter, Eleanor Katherine, a sister for Aidan and William. CAREY - On August 28th to Fiona (nee Kennedy) and Adam, a daughter, Georgia Catherine, a sister for Tabitha. COKE - On 20th August to Georgia (nee Powell) and Toby, a daughter, Hope Nina Jane, a sister for Harry. HOARE - On August 25th at The Portland Hospital to Lisa (nee Douglas) and Richard, a son, Lancelot Theodore Richard Falconer, a brother for Heloise. HOWORTH - On August 27th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Diana (nee Leal) and Richard, a daughter, Milana, a sister for Hebe. JACOBS - On August 25th at The Portland Hospital to Leigh and Jeremy, a daughter, Chloe Rachael, a sister for Jake and Sam. JALOWICZ - On August 21st at Edingburgh Albert and Alicia (nee Bonkapat), a son, Benedict Alexander Charles.

DEATHS

BOND - On 31st August in London, aged 94, Mrs. Wadsworth suddenly and peacefully, beloved widow of the late Arthur Bond, a great loss to his beloved friend Ann. Died on 29th August 1998. Burial at Tewkesbury Abbey, on Tuesday 9th September at 2.30 pm. Private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if wished, to Tewkesbury Abbey Restoration Appeal or Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. GOODWIN - On August 28th at Bechill Hospital, Joan, wife of Alan, passed peacefully away after a long illness bravely borne. Cremation at Eastbourne on Tuesday September 8th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of the Midlands, 31 Devonshire Road, Bechill-on-Sea TN40 4AL. GREEN - Patricia, on August 28th 1998 peacefully at home, wife of the late Tony Green, dearly loved mother of Diane, grandmother of William and Ruth and mother-in-law of John. Very much missed by her family and friends. Thanking Service to be held on Friday September 11th, 3pm at St Helen's Church, Clifford Cliffs, Stratford-upon-Avon. Donations, if desired, would be welcomed for St Helen's or Arthritis Care or Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o A.E. Bennett and Sons, Tel: 01789 267035. KEAST - Tamara, much loved mother of Susan and Jess, after a long illness on 1st September aged 81. Cremation at Bechhampton Crematorium on Monday 7th September at 4.00pm. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to London Green Ward, 4th Floor, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 1UL. Enquiries: 0181 318 6187.

DEATHS

MITCHELL - On August 29th 1998 peacefully at a Nursing Home, Hove, Alan Alexander Mitchell, a great loss to his wife Sylvia and his children, Mary Mitchell, a daughter, and brother of the late Mervyn Mitchell, 2.00pm Wednesday September 9th, Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. MUIR - Damien Main, aged 51, beloved of Susan and father of Richard, on August 31st 1998 at the Auckland Morley Hospital. His wit, warmth and infectious sense of humour will be missed by his many friends and his family. Cremation at Eastbourne on Tuesday September 8th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of the Midlands, 31 Devonshire Road, Bechill-on-Sea TN40 4AL. NEWTON - On 31st August at Thamesfield Hospital, aged 90 Sir Leslie Gordon Newton widower of the late Peggy Newton, father of the late Henry Newton, a great loss to his family and friends. Cremation at Eastbourne on Tuesday September 8th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses of the Midlands, 31 Devonshire Road, Bechill-on-Sea TN40 4AL. OSMOND - Martin A. Beckert, on August 28th died of cancer in Geneva. Beloved husband of Sylvia, father of Charles, Richard, Carolyn, Roselyn and brother of Rosslyn and Charmian. POUND - Joan Lesley peacefully on 18th August 1998. Sadly missed by her family and friends. Burial at Bechill-on-Sea on Friday 11th September at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only but donations may be sent to London Green Ward, 4th Floor, Guy's Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 1UL. Enquiries: 0181 318 6187.

DEATHS

ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985. ROBERTS - Judith, on August 28th peacefully after a very short illness. Wife of Patrick and mother of Mark and Andrew, aged 76. Cremation has already taken place. Memorial service and interment of ashes at St. Lawrence's Church, Bechill-on-Sea, on Tuesday 15th September at 2.00pm. Details at Arden Kent Ltd Tel 01273 821985.

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OBITUARIES

VISCOUNT ROTHERMERE

Vere Harmsworth, 3rd Viscount Rothermere, publisher of the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and the *Evening Standard* died on September 1 following a heart attack aged 73. He was born on August 27, 1925.

Lord Rothermere may properly be regarded as the last of the great old-fashioned hereditary press barons. He will also be remembered as a far-sighted innovator in the modern business of newspapers. Like his forebears, who included the founder of the *Daily Mail* and sometime proprietor of *The Times*, Lord Northcliffe, he was a complex and eccentric personality, often underestimated in his years as heir apparent but vindicated by his success in rebuilding his family's flagship newspaper into a powerful force for middle England.

His views were always vigorously expressed but not always those of the conservative *Daily Mail*. Since just after last May's general election he had made a point of sitting on the Labour benches in the House of Lords. It was entirely in character that within the last month he should have revealed himself in a mischievous interview with a rival, particularly snuffy newspaper as an out-and-out republican. "The institution of monarchy," he breezily announced, "is now well past its sell-by date." It added for good measure that it had proved "extremely destructive" of the people within it ("How can you be normal if you're fawned on from the word go?")

Like his father and his grandfather, though, the 3rd Viscount Rothermere is likely to be principally celebrated not for his political utterances so much as for his tenacious and successful determination to maintain control of the *Daily Mail* and *General Trust* and its chief subsidiary, Associated Newspapers (Holdings). To his great credit, he managed to do this in the teeth of pressures which proved altogether too much for the other great traditional Fleet Street publishing houses.

Vere Harold Esmond Harmsworth was Viscount Northcliffe's great-nephew and grandson of the 1st Viscount Rothermere, who had been his brother's business manager and took over his newspaper empire on Northcliffe's death in 1922. Far from being academically gifted, Vere Harmsworth cut an unimpressive figure in his youth — he did not even gain a commendation during his National Service — and was not expected to dazzle or shine. But the 1st Lord Beaverbrook correctly spotted that he would provide formidable competition for his own son, Sir Max Aitken, who was due to inherit Associated Newspapers' closest rivals, the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express*.

The 27-year reign of Vere Harms-

worth at Associated was notable for three major successes: converting the *Daily Mail* from a broadsheet to a tabloid in 1971; creating *The Mail on Sunday* in 1982; and adroitly thwarting the attempt by Robert Maxwell in 1987 to break into the *Evening Standard's* seven-year-old monopoly of the London evening newspaper market. The first and last of these demonstrated Harmsworth's shrewdness and ruthlessness. The second was a gripping act of faith in his brainchild, a faith maintained despite initial losses on a scale which would have deterred many another press proprietor.

Vere Harmsworth was born to wealth but also into domestic misery. His parents separated when he was five, and thereafter he shared a lonely suite at Claridge's with his mother. Later he and his two elder sisters were ferried by an unfriendly French governess between their mother's house in Dorset and Warwick House, their father's London home in St James's.

War interrupted Harmsworth's education. He spent a year at Eton before being evacuated to Canada and later attending Kent School in Connecticut. In 1944 he returned briefly to Eton, but too late to qualify for entry to university. He endured National Service in the ranks — an experience he later said he was glad of, since it gave him the chance to understand the other chap's point of view — and then spent a couple of relatively idle years dividing his time between London and the United States.

At the age of 23, in 1948, he began his business career with a spell at Anglo-Canadian Paper Mills in Quebec. Three years later his father brought him into the family business. Although he could naturally have had his pick of jobs within Associated Newspapers, his privileged status was also a burden. As his father's only son, he was the heir apparent. In the Fleet Street atmosphere of those days, he was caught between the sycophants who were all too eager to ingratiate themselves and the careerists who did not want the proprietor's son encroaching on their territory.

However, he struck up a friendship with a young journalist, David English, who had become features editor of the now defunct *Daily Sketch* at the age of 25. They worked together on a *Sketch* promotion, "Win a Pub". It developed into a crucial relationship for Harmsworth, and he was visibly affected when Sir David English, who had been knighted on the recommendation of Margaret Thatcher in 1982, died at the relatively early age of 67 only last June.

In 1957 Harmsworth had married Mrs Patricia ("Bubbles") Brooks, who had been a Rank Organisation starlet as Beverly Brooks. Harmsworth fell in love and persuaded her to divorce her first husband, Captain Christopher



Rothermere: tenacity as a newspaper publisher enabled him to succeed where others failed

Brooks. His father, the 2nd Viscount Rothermere (known as "poor Esmond" to everyone except for Randolph Churchill, who insisted on calling him "rich Esmond") settled £2.75 million on his son when he married. Like the link with David English, the marriage was to be another important alliance for the 32-year-old Harmsworth, establishing him on the London social scene — his wife was a notable hostess — and giving him the confidence to become more involved in the problems of the newspaper business.

By 1970 the *Daily Mail's* circulation was slipping, taking the group into losses. Executives were talking to their counterparts at Beaverbrook Newspapers about the possibility of merger. The *Express* was still selling 3.5 million copies a day, more than twice as many as the *Mail*. But McKinsey & Co, the American management consult-

ants, produced a survival plan. This involved merging the *Mail* and the *Sketch* in a tabloid format and imposing drastic staff cuts. The alternative, Harmsworth realised, was to dissolve his inheritance. His father agreed to let him have his way, seeing it as a convenient moment to transfer the reins of power.

By this time English had spent nine years with the *Daily Express*, nearly half of that time in Harmsworth's beloved America. Sir Max Aitken refused to guarantee him the reversion to the editorship of the *Express*, so he accepted Harmsworth's offer to rejoin Associated Newspapers and edit the *Sketch* as a prelude to helping to launch the tabloid *Daily Mail*. The ruling trio was completed by Mick Shields, Harmsworth's appointment as managing director.

The new paper appeared on the streets in May 1971, but had al-

ready involved the redundancy of 510 journalists and 1,200 printers and office workers. The industrial relations challenge was followed by a long period of uncertainty about the success of the tabloid strategy. At first, circulation of the revamped *Mail* fell 100,000 below its former level, despite the theoretical addition of the *Sketch* readership.

Yet it eventually caught the mood and became part of the Seventies' zeitgeist. Many women chose it instead of the *Express*, where the circulation was sliding inexorably down to meet the *Mail's* rising figures. And it became a voice for the backlash against the Labour Government, culminating in the triumphant election of Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister in 1979.

Meanwhile, Associated's London evening newspaper, the *Evening News*, was facing intractable problems. The advent of commercial radio and earlier rush hours home

conspired to squeeze circulation far more than that of Beaverbrook's more feature-led *Standard*.

The attentions of Harmsworth and the rest of the management were distracted by the need to establish the new tabloid *Mail*, and relentlessly higher personal taxation led Harmsworth to emigrate to Paris. He and Bubbles increasingly lived apart, without formally separating. In 1978 his father died, necessitating a reorganisation of the family's finances.

By the mid-1970s another project was beginning to preoccupy Harmsworth: since the death of the *Sunday Dispatch* in 1961, Associated had lacked a national Sunday newspaper. In 1976 — in competition with Rupert Murdoch — Vere Harmsworth tried unsuccessfully to buy *The Observer*.

Meanwhile, the losses at the *Evening News* were becoming pressing. Talks were resumed with Beaverbrook Newspapers. But this time with a view to Associated buying the *Standard*, merging it with the *News* and printing the new paper on Beaverbrook's presses. The *Standard's* editorial staff, led by Charles Wintour and Simon Jenkins, put up a strong fight to retain its identity, but their campaign was overtaken by events. In July 1977 Beaverbrook Newspapers was bought by Trafalgar House, the property and construction group.

Three years later, the 3rd Lord Rothermere finally settled the evening paper problem. He closed the *Evening News* in return for a half share in the *Standard* and a shrewd option to buy the rest should Trafalgar House ever wish to sell. As with Conrad Black and *The Daily Telegraph*, that option soon proved to have been smartly chosen: when Trafalgar House's newspaper interests were taken over by United Newspapers in 1986, Rothermere was able to insist on his rights and exercise the option — so securing his family's final victory over its traditional rivals in *Express* Newspapers.

Earlier, in 1980, Rothermere had also joined in the auction for Times Newspapers, which the Thomson Organisation had finally determined to sell after years of industrial trouble. But he was outmanoeuvred by Rupert Murdoch, who convinced the vendors, staff and the British Government that he was the better buyer. In any event, Rothermere's own management was not wholeheartedly behind him on this occasion.

That put an end to Rothermere's thoughts of buying a Sunday newspaper. So he decided to launch *The Mail on Sunday*, a title that was advisedly chosen in order to avoid legal difficulties with the already established *Sunday Mail* in Glasgow. Rothermere himself put the new paper together — with initially

only minor assistance from David English — almost as if he was determined to show that he could do it alone. A succession of Associated executives was summoned either to Rothermere's grand office in Boulevard Street or to his sumptuous flat in Paris. The new Sunday paper was launched in May 1982, exactly 11 years after the new *Daily Mail*.

It began disastrously. After ten weeks the first editor, Bernard Shrimley, was replaced. Sir David English became a stop-gap editor, while still continuing to run its daily stablemate. In October it was relaunched with a colour magazine and Stuart Steven as Editor. Sir David became Editor-in-Chief. Circulation began a steady climb.

As *The Mail on Sunday* moved towards profit, another threat loomed. In 1986 Robert Maxwell began recruiting staff to launch what he subsequently said would be a 24-hour-a-day London paper, the *London Daily News*. Although it attempted to take sales off the middle-market dailies, its prime target was the *Evening Standard* monopoly.

Rothermere's response was brilliant. He revived the *Evening News* at half the price of the *London Daily News*. Coupled with a ruthless exploitation of Associated's control of a large proportion of London's street newspaper sellers, it was sufficiently confusing to stifle the growth of Maxwell's project. Maxwell abandoned his 24-hour paper — which proved even editorially a botched product — after four months.

Although the story of Lord Rothermere is inevitably a story of the British press in the late 20th century, his was a remarkable triumph over adversity. But for his determination and his loyalty to his key lieutenants, Associated Newspapers could easily have gone the way of the *Express* group — surviving, but as part of an anonymous corporation. Instead, Associated retains the vigour and vitality of a company led by one individual.

Lord Rothermere took part in the wider institutions of the publishing world, as a trustee of Reuters, president of the Commonwealth Press Union and patron of the London School of Journalism. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and of the British Institute of Management. His hobbies were reading, painting and sailing; he was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron as well as Boodle's, the Beefeater, the Travellers in Paris and the Brook in New York.

Lord Rothermere is survived by his second wife and long-term Paris companion, Maiko Jeongshun Lee, whom he married in 1993. His first wife, Bubbles, died in 1992, but the two daughters and son of that marriage also survive him. The latter, Jonathan Esmond Vere Harmsworth, now becomes the 4th Viscount Rothermere.

SIR GORDON NEWTON

Sir Gordon Newton, Editor of the *Financial Times*, 1950-72, died on August 31 aged 90. He was born on September 16, 1907.

Gordon Newton was a one newspaper man. When he was out of work in 1934 he took on a lowly job as a clerk on the *Financial News*, billing and sticking in press cuttings. He slowly moved up the tree, beginning with a feature article on the state of the Australian economy, based mainly on a slight knowledge of the wool industry. By 1939 he had become commodities editor and was bold enough to ask for a salary increase, which was approved by the *Financial News's* managing director, Brendan Bracken, at the rate of an extra ten shillings a week.

At the end of the war, most of which he spent in the Royal Artillery, he was invited back by Bracken to be features editor. The *Financial News* by this time had bought its only — and larger circulation — rival, the *Financial Times*, and had taken on the title in place of its own. With newsprint rationing in force and eight-page papers the norm, there were not too many features to edit. Newton accepted the job, although it paid him rather less than he was getting as an army captain. Even then, as so often in the years ahead, his instincts were right.

Within three years the *FT's* Editor, Hargreaves Parkinson, one of Newton's great supporters, became ill and it was clear that he would have to retire. Newton was later to claim that he was not the obvious successor. Newton liked the occasional bet and the favourite, at 4-6 in his book, was Harold Wintour, then editor of *The Investor's Chronicle*. But Bracken and his right-hand man, Lord Drogheda, went for Gordon Newton and he turned out to be an inspired choice.

Over the next quarter of a century the *FT* changed from a small circulation parish publication directed at the City into a newspaper of international repute, admired the world over for its integrity, its fairness and its accuracy. For this most of the credit must go to Newton. Under his guidance coverage of the City's interests was broadened to take in those of British industry as a whole. Foreign news, especially the economic variety, began to appear and overseas bureaux were set up. There was a gradual acknowledgment that busi-

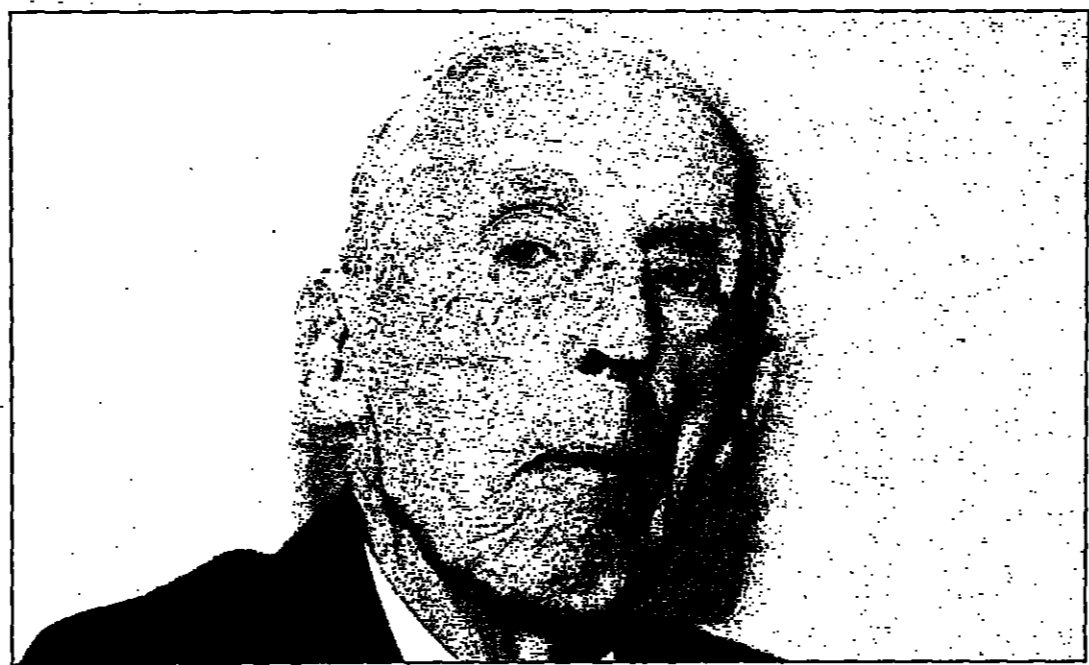
ness readers not only tried to make money but also sometimes spent it. An arts page was established, and so was a woman's page: Sport and leisure activities began to get a modest showing in the paper.

Newton was a cautious man and he expanded the *FT's* scope inch by inch, testing the water temperature before moving in too far. He achieved it through a style of editorship unique in Fleet Street. When he took over the chair at the *Financial Times* he decided, consciously or unconsciously, that his own writing days were over.

Thereafter he never wrote a leader or, indeed, any other type of article for the paper, apart from the obituary of his old friend and one-time rival, Harold Wintour. But he was not averse to adding to or subtracting from the work of others. He was ready to harden a front page lead with his pen and to cast doubt when he thought doubt was required. At the close of a thundering leader denouncing current British economic policy he once pencilled in a single phrase: "Or perhaps not."

Gordon Newton believed in the Editor as the man who took the decisions, often rapidly and almost always by himself. Early in his tenure he made the mistake of ringing up Bracken one evening for advice on a particularly spiky diplomatic matter. Bracken's sharp reply was that he was the Editor and so should make up his own mind. Newton never repeated the error. He knew what he liked and, even more important, what he did not like. Even though he was not always able to explain why. "Don't like it. Go away and have another shot" was a favourite phrase as he dropped the copy in question into the wastepaper basket to the chagrin of its author.

Probably his greatest strength lay in his judgment of people. He went against all the rules of Fleet Street in the 1950s and early 1960s by hiring young Oxbridge graduates with no newspaper experience whatsoever and putting them straight into the front line. Old pros ran the newsroom, the prices room and various technical parts of the paper. But at the top Newton wanted brains, some brilliance and energy. And he got them. His theory was that a man — and it was some time before women were appointed to the paper — with a first-class mind and a little basic toughness could quickly be turned into a journalist. And his choice was gen-



Newton: believed in the Editor as the man who took the decisions, something he did with dispatch

erally unerring. There were few failures and the list of those recruited to the Newton kindergarten before the obstructive and Luddite attitude of the National Union of Journalists interfered with his policy reads like a national roll of honour.

Some of Newton's clever young men, quick to pounce on any deficiency, were apt to mock him behind his back, seizing especially on his quirks of vocabulary, which were known as "Newtonisms". They were not malapropisms but invented words which took on a meaning of their own, often very relevant. Requests would go out to make a story "tert", a cross between terse and short. "What I want," he once said of a suspect entrepreneur who had soared into the limelight, "is a pen-portrait. What I call a little vinaigrette." But behind that mockery lay both respect and affection.

Newton in turn looked back with pride on most of those who received their first jobs from him, remarking that "two became members of the Cabinet and two went to the House of Lords". An underestimate. About five or six became MPs on both sides of the Commons, and about six, it may be seven, were knighted. By no means all saw the *FT* as a stepping stone to greater glory. Sir Samuel Britan stayed with the paper all his working life; Sir Geoffrey Owen left it

briefly to return later as deputy editor and then as Editor.

Under Newton's influence the *Financial Times* became something of a club, inspiring fierce loyalties from its members, past and present. When his journalists were attacked by letter or in print, Newton was the first to defend them. And they did the same for him, although he had little need of support. After he retired as Editor at the age of 65, he deliberately cut himself off from the paper, not wishing to become a professional old boy or cast a shadow on those who followed. But the kindergarten created an informal Gordon Newton Society, which held a dinner, usually attended by the cream of his old Oxbridge intake, in his honour each year until he became too infirm to make the journey from his Henley home.

The years which formed his character and built up his ability to handle all kinds of adversity came in his early twenties. Leslie Gordon Newton had a comfortable middle-class upbringing, educated at Blundell's School, Tiverton, and going on to Sidney Sussex, Cambridge, where he ran for the university and was elected to the Hawks' Club. It was the ideal preparation for going into business and this he did, joining the family firm of John M. Newton & Sons. He began by going out on the road as a salesman for the

company's glass products. But he was not able to sell much before Newton's went bankrupt, partly thanks to the attempts of his father to turn it into a public company. The family's money had gone; his father moved out of the home and his mother was left to start a small hotel. Gordon Newton had no job and few qualifications.

He tried to set up on his own in a different area of the glass business, but with no great success. Indeed, in some weeks he did not know where the money was coming from to pay his tiny staff. The speed and bitterness of this sudden reversal left deep scars but also some future benefits. It taught Newton in the hardest possible way the value of money and the need for it. It also gave him an understanding and sympathy for small businessmen. They were to form the core readership of Newton's *FT* and as each new Budget Day came round one of his first questions was: "What does it mean for the small business?" The years spent before he joined the *Financial News* as a filing clerk were not wasted ones.

They did, though, almost certainly turn him into a far more private person than he might otherwise have been. He was ready to join his staff informally in the small bar in the basement of Bracken House in the 1960s for a drink towards the end of the day, but small talk was

not his forte. He rarely spoke of his wife Peggy or his son Henry. Editorial conferences were brief and to the point as he took the news agenda at high speed in his airy Editor's office on the corner of the *FT's* old building opposite St Paul's.

Characteristically, Newton's chair faced away from the view. He liked to pose as a philistine and this was partly as a defence against Garrett Drogheda, first managing director and then chairman of the *Financial Times* during Newton's rule. The two men formed one of Fleet Street's most improbable double acts. Lord Drogheda was front-of-house, urbane to the point of languor, socially polished in the school of Emerald Curand and Diana Cooper. Newton was streetwise and happier in less elevated levels of society. Both described the other as "difficult to work with". Drogheda sent his Editor a stream of notes, criticising often in the smallest detail each day's issue. Newton responded with written replies — sometimes "tert" — in which he almost always took the side of his journalists.

The arts page, which grew rapidly in the 1960s on an occasional review hidden away at the back of the paper, was a particular source of contention. Its reputation, based on the quality of its principal contributors, grew equally rapidly — often to Newton's extreme irritation. Strangers would compliment him on his paper's arts coverage, when he would much rather have been praised for the way he handled the latest piece of economic news. Privately he was delighted at the prestige it brought; publicly, and with some justification, he claimed that it added nothing to the circulation. He was careful to conceal the fact that he came from a fairly musical family: his sister played the piano and he had studied the violin. In exactly the same way Newton rarely let on to his foreign correspondents that he had done a stint in Germany after the war and knew the rigours and loneliness of the journalist's life abroad.

Both Drogheda and Newton mellowed during their long partnership. As more and more acclaim came to the *FT*, so Newton began to emerge from his shell. He avoided public appearances but his reputation grew in government circles and he was known for his political fairness. His knighthood in 1966 was bestowed by Harold Wilson, with whom he got on well. In 1967 he was declared

Journalist of the Year in the Harnden Swaffer awards organised by IPC. His friends among his fellow editors tended to come from the popular press rather than the "posh papers", as they were then known. Men like Arthur Christiansen of the *Express* and Lee Howard of the *Mirror* would look to him for a steer on economic matters and he to them for rather earthier information.

His approach was strictly pragmatic. When he was asked by the Conservative Government in 1971 to lead an inquiry into the function and capability of the Central Office of Information, he soon decided that the whole enterprise was a waste of everyone's time. His view of his own career was equally clear-cut. He had made up his mind that he would leave the *FT* when he was 65 and make a complete break. No consultancies, no fudged titles. This he did, handing over the editorial reins to "Freddy" Fisher, who had been on the paper's foreign and diplomatic side for a quarter of a century. Newton's only concession was to remain on the board of the parent company, Pearson Longman, for four years.

Other companies also thought they would benefit from his lifetime in financial journalism. But Newton's once infallible instinct for making the right decision began to falter. He joined the board of Forté, although he had little knowledge of the catering industry and was supremely uninterested in food and drink.

He was chairman of LBC for three years, despite little experience of broadcasting, especially the commercial variety. His chairmanship of the banking group Vavasour was not a particularly happy experience either.

Gordon Newton was the embodiment of the man with the ability to do one thing extremely well and that was edit a newspaper. Eventually he retired from the commercial world and spent more time at his favourite relaxation, fishing, until his eyesight began to fail. He developed a late talent for public speaking, as those who attended the Gordon Newton dinners will testify, talking with perfect fluency and without notes on the matters of the day. The taciturn editor of the 1950s was nowhere in sight. Eventually, when he was 90, he published a small volume of memoirs, *A Peer without Equal*, privately printed. His wife and son both predeceased him.

NEWS

Russian crisis 'worse than 1917'

Russia's economic crisis took a dangerous political turn when Aleksandr Lebed, a presidential hopeful, told President Clinton that the country faced a greater threat than in 1917 on the eve of the Bolshevik revolution.

"Now we have huge stockpiles of poorly guarded nuclear weapons," said the former paratrooper commander, who was among opposition leaders meeting Mr Clinton on the final day of his visit.

Princes urge end to grieving

Prince William and Prince Harry issued a rare personal appeal, a year after the death of their mother, asking that she now be left in peace and that there be an end to public commemoration and grieving.

Pivotal meeting due

The pace of the Northern Ireland peace process quickened with strong indications that David Trimble is poised to meet Gerry Adams face to face.

Rothermere dies

One of Britain's most influential newspaper groups faced uncertainty after the sudden death of Viscount Rothermere, the last of the press barons.

Coming out fighting

It was body language we were watching for and body is a language at which Hillary Rodham Clinton is adept - poised, spirited and defiant.

Pollution clampdown

Tougher fines for polluters were called for by the Government's environmental watchdog, which said courts were treating offenders too leniently.

Paedophile swoop

Wonderland, the worldwide internet club for paedophiles that sparked dozens of arrests, was a "secretive and professional" website set up in America.

Plane weathers storm

The makers of the Eurofighter, having overcome German objections to their choice of name for the combat jet, have officially named it the Typhoon.

Feline peckish? The perfect recipe

Cat lovers be warned: stick to pasta when next in Vicenza. Pet owners in the Italian town are in uproar over a cookery book that includes an unusual local delicacy, *il gato in teia* - literally, cat in a pot.

Unhappy homecoming

The head of the Wales Tourist Board was on extended leave after being severely criticised for taking a three-week summer holiday in Spain.

Police in £10m payout

A police force paid more than £10 million in damages and costs to settle four claims of malicious prosecution, linked to an alleged plot to discredit the former police chief John Stalker.

Guardsmen freed

The father of a Belfast teenager killed by two Guardsmen said after their early release from jail that army camps would be picketed unless the men were dismissed from the Forces.

Adverts get go-ahead

Germany's far-right Republican party won a legal battle to screen controversial advertisements on television during the election campaign.

Genocide conviction

The United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found a former mayor guilty of genocide, rape, breach of the Geneva Convention and crimes against humanity.

No hiding place

Pressure at home continued to increase for President Clinton as the Monica Lewinsky scandal followed the US leader to the Kremlin.



Tony Brown, a Concorde flight engineer, in the balloon capsule in which he hopes to circle the world with Bertrand Piccard this winter

BUSINESS

Valuable diversion: The transformation of IBM from computer manufacturer to outsourcing giant gathered pace when it signed a £1.8 billion contract.

Short stop: The chief executive of Royal & Sun Alliance in Britain is to step down after just ten months in the job.

Where there's muck: Three local authorities are to share £120 million after the acquisition of their jointly owned waste management business by Yorkshire Water's waste arm.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 66.7 to close at 5234.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 105.3 to 105.0 after a fall from \$1.6672 to \$1.6696 and from DM2.9343 to DM2.9235.

SPORT

Tennis: Tim Henman, the No 13 seed, won his first-round match at the US Open championships in New York, beating Australia's Scott Draper 6-3, 7-6, 7-6.

Football: It would have been nice if Glenn Hoddle had admitted, for once, that he had listened to his critics, in this case Tony Adams, owner of 55 England caps.

Rugby union: The RFU has withdrawn refereeing and insurance facilities from the game scheduled for this Saturday between Bedford and Cardiff.

Golf: Colin Montgomerie is experiencing the truth of the saying that golf is a funny old game. One minute he's a strutting rooster; the next he is somebody's feather duster.

ARTS

New movies: Nostalgia isn't what it used to be as David Leland's *The Land Girls* takes us back to 1941 and Whit Stillman's *The Last Days of Disco* fast-forwards to the early Eighties.

New buildings: The French architect Jean Nouvel has given Lucerne a stunning concert hall in a rich palette of burgundy red, midnight blue and bottle green.

New play: The Almeida Theatre premieres *The Play About the Baby*, the latest enigmatic offering from the American playwright Edward Albee.

Old crisis: There are two Royal Operas, says Rodney Milnes - the Royal Opera proper, and its management. And there is nothing wrong with the former.

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: How a young woman survived her journey through the Arctic without the Prozac she usually needed: lessons from death of Viscount Rothermere; old people and sea cruises; resistance to aspirin.

Sense of loss: Drink, drugs and the loss of two longed-for children helped to destroy the marriage of Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe. The third extract in our serialisation of Barbara Leaming's book charts the breakdown.

Reviews: The pirate who became a national legend; the man who made James Bond; how visual artists imitate the natural world; the Russian poet, the KGB and Isaiah Berlin; the life of Alfred Kinsey, the sex researcher.

Columns: ANATOLE KALETSKY. Instead of vainly issuing warnings about economic disasters and harping on about "market reform", the West should insist that economic co-operation with the Russian governments of the future be based on political, not economic, conditions.

NORMAN STONE. Nowadays in Russia there seems to be only one party that, having expected the chaos and perhaps also worked for it, is ready to take power: the Communists.

MAGNUS LINKLATER. You cannot strip the monarchy of all its clothes and still expect it to carry out the same role as before. The manner in which the Prince's role as future king evolves will have a deep effect on the way in which the new Scotland presents itself to the world.

THE PAPERS. At no time has the need for international co-operation, especially among the Group of Seven, been greater. The jitters around the world must be prevented from concentrating on Wall Street and their dragging down of stock prices all over the world must be stopped.

COURSE WORK. Your guide to a place in higher education. Today, art and social sciences.

THE PAPER. At no time has the need for international co-operation, especially among the Group of Seven, been greater. The jitters around the world must be prevented from concentrating on Wall Street and their dragging down of stock prices all over the world must be stopped.

EDUCATION. What the literacy hour will mean for primary schoolchildren.

Asahi Shimbun (Tokyo)



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

MEDIA. Make your name in newspapers: Michael Leapman on getting into journalism.

EDUCATION. What the literacy hour will mean for primary schoolchildren.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,887

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 28 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS
1 Resistance to mal de mer, say, among swimmers (3,4).
5 Sun-affected sailors slacken off (7).
9 Not a fellow to mix socially (9).
10 Teacher's pet endlessly seen (5).
11 Wild rose one found that's growing by the river (5).
12 Game to have a drink after the dance (9).
13 Proverbial labour saver (1,6,2,4).
17 Prince rather upset, having to accept a regal spouse (9,4).
21 Battle helmet (9).
24 Duplicate initially needs it to make copy (5).
25 Book a strong man (5).
26 Top-class doctor residing in modern flat (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20886. A crossword puzzle solution grid with words filled in.

INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions. 0336 444 910. Includes sections for Motorway, World City Weather, and Car reports by fax.

FORECAST

General: dry with sunny spells in western areas and Northern Ireland. NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: sunny spells and mainly dry. Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: dull with rain, drizzle and fog patches.

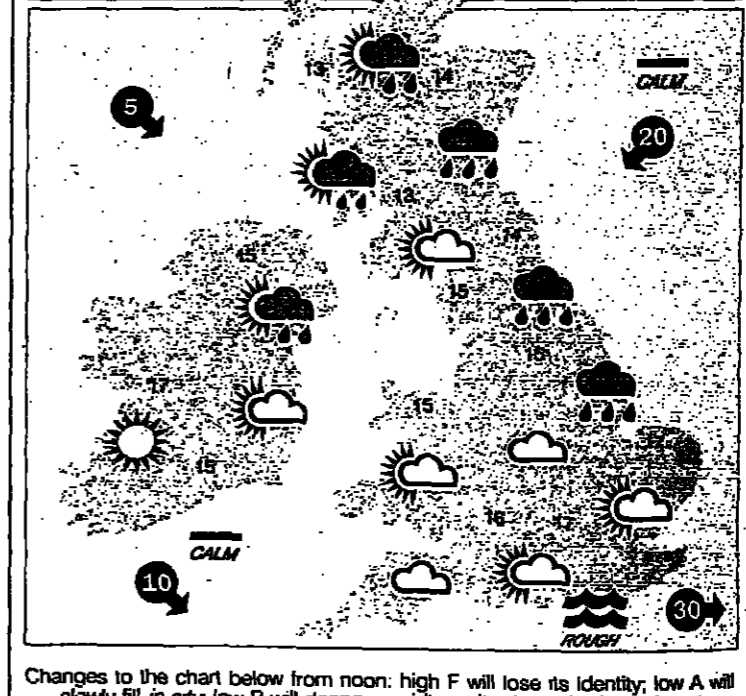
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns include location, sun, rain, max, and min temperatures.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad. Columns include location, sun, rain, max, and min temperatures.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations in the UK. Columns include location, AM, PM, and HT times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

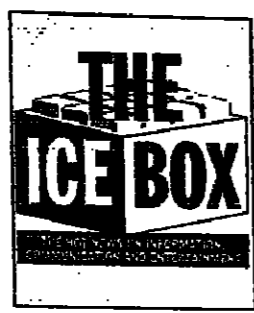
Table showing hours of darkness for various locations. Columns include location, Sun sets, Moon sets, and Moon rises.

Large vertical advertisement for 'THE ICE BOX' and 'Standard Life' insurance products. Includes text like 'UK chief at Royal Sun Alliance' and 'Share structure'.



# THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**BUSINESS**  
Advertisers must refocus in the digital age  
**PAGE 29**



**ARTS**  
Cinema dances to *The Last Days of Disco*  
**PAGES 34-37**



**SPORT**  
Henman makes flying start at US Open  
**PAGES 42-48**

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
Pages 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1998

2W

## UK chief quits at Royal & SunAlliance

By CAROLINE MERRELL

ROYAL & SunAlliance, the troubled insurance group, has parted company with the chief executive appointed to run its UK business just 10 months ago.

The company, which has been dogged by management problems since its controversial merger in July 1996, said that Peter Foreman would relinquish his role at the end of this month.

A spokesman said that Mr Foreman, 56, had indicated that he wanted to take early retirement. The company refused to say whether Mr Foreman, who retains an advisory role until the end of this year, would receive compensation.

The departure of the UK chief executive comes as the insurer takes action to restore shareholder confidence after an alarming fall in its share price since March.

At a time when many other insurance companies have enjoyed improved stock market ratings, shares in Royal & SunAlliance have fallen from 80p to a low of 50p. The fall has wiped more than £5 billion from the group's stock market value, undermining one of the main reasons for the merger, which was intended to enhance shareholder value.

The role of UK chief executive is to be taken over by Paul Spencer, who is currently

group finance director. Mr Foreman had to oversee a period of immense change in the insurer's top management after the appointment of Bob Mendelsohn as group chief executive in December last year.

One analyst said that instigating the changes had put a considerable strain on Mr Foreman. Another claimed that the under-performance of the share price was linked to Royal & SunAlliance's general insurance operation, which has come under increasing competitive pressure.

The departure of Roger Taylor, the deputy chairman, at the end of last year was deemed to be the last of the major changes associated with the merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance. Mr Taylor was paid £794,000 to leave the

company. Richard Gamble, who was head of Royal Insurance, also left, receiving compensation of £775,000. However, at the end of June, a further four people from the management board left the company.

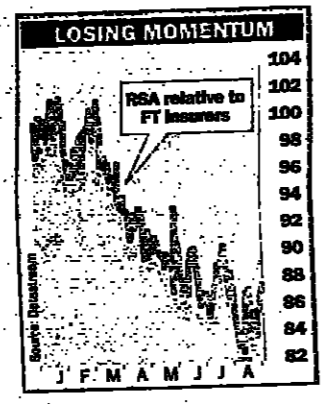
The company spokesman indicated that there could be more changes to come under the new board structure.

The group's interim profits, announced last month, were hit by the El Niño weather pattern and Canadian ice storms. Operating profits of the insurer fell by almost 40 per cent, before tax and exceptional items, to £305 million. The company complained of "very competitive market conditions". In the six months to June 30, group pre-tax profits fell by more than a fifth to £437 million.

Analysts believe that the insurer has about £2.5 billion of excess capital to spend on a purchase. The company is also to make further cost savings.

Royal & SunAlliance also announced the appointment of Carole St Mark, as a non-executive director. Ms St Mark is president of Growth Management, a business development and consulting firm.

Julian Hance will become group finance director on October 1. He has been a director of financial development since April 1998.



## Standard Life nets £1bn from big-bank exodus

By SUSAN EMMETT

STANDARD LIFE BANK has netted more than £1 billion in deposits from 120,000 customers since its launch in January.

The banking arm of the mutual life insurer has overtaken Safeway, the supermarket chain that launched its own bank at the same time but has attracted only £600 million, and Tesco, which has taken £800 million after 11 months.

However, Standard Life has yet to catch up with Sainsbury, the most popular of the new-style banks, with £1.4 billion on deposit after 18 months.

Standard Life has raised its rates four times and now pays up to 7.55 per cent on deposits

of more than £60,000 in its direct access account and 7.81 per cent for sums above £250,000 in its 50-day account.

The bank expects to start providing mortgages by telephone later this year.

The new-style banks are cashing in on growing public disenchantment with traditional high street banks and building societies. Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, yesterday called for the Banking Code to be strengthened to end the "shabby" treatment of customers. It said that Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Woolwich are the worst offenders. Some banks and building

societies try to attract new customers by launching chart-topping accounts while paying existing savers uncompetitive rates, it said.

The Virgin One account, which combines a flexible mortgage and current account, has attracted 5,000 customers and lent £400 million since its launch last October. Nearly 60 per cent of them have come from the big banks, with almost 20 per cent defecting from Barclays and more than 30 per cent from Halifax and Abbey National. Just under 10 per cent came from First Direct, the rival telephone bank.



Dick Brown, chairman of Cable & Wireless Communications, top, with Graham Wallace

## IBM clinches £1.8bn outsourcing at CWC

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

IBM's transformation from computer manufacturer to outsourcing giant gathered pace yesterday when it signed a £1.8 billion ten-year contract to take over the management of the computer systems of Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC), the UK cable company.

The deal is the biggest of its kind outside America, according to IBM, which predicts that large-scale telecoms outsourcing is an important new industry trend.

With IBM's help, CWC will in future be able to present customers with a single bill for telephone, data and cable televi-

sion services. More than 1,000 CWC staff will transfer to IBM, which says the deal will create an additional 400 jobs.

Graham Wallace, the CWC chief executive, said: "This partnership will enable us to deliver the IT systems necessary to provide high levels of business efficiency and customer service."

An IBM spokesman said: "In three years, 90 per cent of European companies will be outsourcing their computer network support services. This trend towards telecoms outsourcing is really taking hold."

IBM has struck similar deals with Lloyds TSB and

Hapag Lloyd, the German tour operator. The value of its outsourcing deals totals \$14 billion (about £8 billion). The spokesman said: "Well-known companies like CWC pave the way and others will follow. We are very bullish about this."

IBM's services division increased sales by 23 per cent to make up a quarter of group revenue last year. The software division lost 43 per cent. CWC, which is majority owned by Cable & Wireless, was formed via the merger of Bell Cablemedia, Mercury Communications, Nynex CableComms and Videotron.

## Markets shrug off Moscow vote on Dubinin

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

WORLD stock markets held their nerve yesterday despite unsettling news from Russia and Malaysia, but the mood of investors remained tense.

In London, the FTSE 100 closed 66.7 points higher, at 5,235.8, but this was still well below its peak of the day, when it showed a 172-point gain. Wall Street put on an early show of resilience, with the Dow Jones industrial average registering a gain at mid-session of about 80 points. But the Dow eventually turned, dropping 45.06 points to 7,782.37.

News from emerging markets again hurt confidence. In Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister, sacked Anwar Ibrahim, his free-market Finance Minister, on the day after the Government imposed currency controls. In Russia, the Duma backed a demand for Sergei Dubinin, head of the Russian central bank, to be dismissed by President Yeltsin.

The improved mood in leading share markets owed more to investors pausing to weigh up the situation after Monday's calamitous losses and Tuesday's strong bounce on Wall Street than to any fundamental reappraisal of market prospects in view of the crisis in emerging markets.

The market focus has shifted somewhat to the question of how the Group of Seven industrialised nations will deal with the crisis in world markets, including thoughts of a co-ordinated cut in interest rates.

Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's Finance Minister, will meet Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, and Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, in San Francisco this weekend. Mr Miyazawa yesterday said that he expected the question of a US rate cut to be discussed, but that he had no plan to propose joint rate cuts between Japan and the US to stabilise world equity markets.

At the end of his two-day summit with President Yeltsin in Moscow, President Clinton emphasised the importance of this weekend's talks. He said: "Unless Japan begins to grow again, it's going to be difficult for Russia and other countries to do what they need to do."

Earlier, some Asian markets profited from Wall Street's rebound on Tuesday despite concern about Malaysia. Hong Kong shares rose 4 per cent, but Tokyo's Nikkei 225 ended only 0.05 per cent up after volatile trading.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5235.8	(+66.7)
Yield	3.19%	
FTSE All Share	2426.75	(+35.50)
Nikkei	14376.82	(+6.99)
New York		
Dow Jones	7782.37	(-45.06)
S&P Composite	990.48	(-14.35)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5%	(5%)
Long bond	102%	(102%)
Yield	5.34%	(5.35%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7%	(7%)
Life long gilt		
future (Dec)	111.85	(111.90)

STERLING		
New York	1.6702	(1.6748)
London		
\$	1.6597	(1.6780)
DM	2.9252	(2.9322)
FF	5.7896	(5.8437)
SFF	2.4081	(2.4159)
Yen	230.14	(228.92)
C index	106.0	(105.3)

DOLLAR		
London	1.7490	(1.7510)
DM	1.6599	(1.6829)
FF	1.4427	(1.4422)
Yen	137.75	(138.38)
C index	112.3	(111.9)

TOKYO		
Tokyo close	Yen 137.82	

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$12.75	(\$12.90)

GOLD		
London close	\$280.15	(\$278.85)

## Bankers ask OFT to investigate accountants

By CARL MORTISHED

THE Office of Fair Trading has been asked to investigate the big accounting firms over allegations of uncompetitive practices by accountants working on mergers and acquisitions.

The City's investment bankers have written to John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, asking for an investigation. The London Investment Bankers Association (LIBA) complains that accountants are refusing to sign off the documents and comfort letters normally required in the due diligence work that forms part of big City deals.

City regulators, including the Stock Exchange, often require accountants to put their names to accounts to be published in documents such as listing particulars. Kit Farrow, director-general of LIBA, said: "It is becoming increasingly difficult to get appropriate opinions because we find the accountants are unwilling to put their names to an appropriate form of words."

One investment banker said accountants were running away from liability: "The biggest problem we have is the indemnities and protection that they ask for before they will sign." Mr Farrow added: "Because of professional indemnity claims in the past, they are unwilling to expose themselves."

LIBA's complaint closely follows the merger between Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand.

Commentary, page 27  
Accountancy, page 30

## Share structure ensures continuing Mail dynasty

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE question of who will succeed Lord Rothermere at the helm of Daily Mail and General Trust highlights the issue of the dynasty's control, achieved despite owning only a minority of the company.

The family owns nearly 80 per cent of the voting shares in DMGT and it seems likely that the chairmanship of the media group will

pass to Lord Rothermere's son, Jonathan Harmsworth. Such a handing of power down the generations is possible because 95 per cent of the company's share capital is in "A" shares that do not confer voting rights on their holders.

DMGT is one of the few remaining quoted companies to retain the archaic two-tier capital structure, once common practice among family-run businesses.

In the past, handing out non-voting or limited voting right shares was a useful way for companies to raise finance from investors while maintaining control over their destiny.

However, institutional investors became increasingly irritated by the boardroom bar and resented the lack of a bid premium, which kept their shares at a discount to the market, although often it had the effect of boosting the yield on an investment.

A concerted campaign in the 1980s and 1990s by the Association of British Insurers and the National Association of Pension Funds has more or less stamped out the old-fashioned practice.

Companies that wished to increase support from the City and expand their businesses were told in no uncertain terms that they had to abandon the two-tier structure and enfranchise non-voting shareholders.

The watershed for shareholder democrats came in 1993, when the ruling dynasties behind Whitbread and Great Universal Stores decided to abolish their privileged shareholder status and switched to a unitary capital structure. Both have expanded rapidly since. This year has seen a further decline as Eldridge Pope, the pub operator, abandoned non-voting shares. The Savoy Group, which was saved from takeover by Forte through

its dual share structure, was taken over earlier this year. The only blue chip company, other than DMGT, that today pursues a divide-and-rule policy among its investors is Schroders, the independent merchant bank. However, both it and DMGT should be able to fend off reformers provided they can maintain the impressive performance of their shares.

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### SkyePharma will reap rewards from Paxil

BY PAUL DURMAN

IAN GOWRIE-SMITH, the chairman of SkyePharma, expects his drug delivery company to start earning substantial royalty income next year from a new version of Paxil. Smith-Kline Beecham's big-selling anti-depressant.

SkyePharma's work on a new controlled-release formulation will generate a 3 per cent royalty on a drug whose sales, according to Mr Gowrie-Smith, are forecast to double to \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) a year. Even if only new users take the "CR" version of Paxil, this implies that Smith-Kline Beecham could soon be paying its loss-making partner £27 million a year.

Mr Gowrie-Smith hopes that Paxil CR will receive US approval before the end of the year, and expects SkyePharma to turn cash-positive next year. Brightstone, the group's US marketing arm, is also hoping to receive approval for a generic version of a \$200 million drug.

SkyePharma is also working with Eli Lilly, the US pharmaceutical group, on a new version of a \$1 billion drug. Mr Gowrie-Smith said that the success with Paxil had established the company's credibility and it was attracting more new business than ever before. Michael Ashton, the chief operating officer, said: "We are at the threshold of substantial growth."

SkyePharma's loss increased to £10.4 million (£9.2 million) in the first six months of 1998.

# US banks face pressure over details of Russian exposure

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S Securities & Exchange Commission is considering tougher disclosure rules for banks with large emerging market exposure, following the losses suffered on Wall Street.

An SEC spokesman said: "We feel that material information should be disclosed to the entire marketplace because investors would need [this] to make trading decisions."

Currently, the SEC requires banks to disclose trading losses

that threaten to have an impact on the bottom line. But it is up to the banks to judge when such a threat exists.

Yesterday more investment banks declared unexpected losses resulting from the turmoil in the Russian and Asian markets. Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette said profits in the current quarter were down from \$120 million to \$40 million. Analysts estimate the trading loss is about \$150 million.

Morgan Stanley, the biggest US investment bank, said its quarterly profits would be \$110 million lower because of

the crisis. Citicorp, which will form the world's largest financial services group in a merger with Travelers Group, said losses in Russia would cut its profit by \$200 million.

The three banks were the latest in a long line of Wall Street financial houses and European banks to declare their losses. Banking analysts have complained the companies offer very little information beyond a headline figure, making it difficult to assess the true impact on the balance sheet.

Joel Silverman, an analyst at Prudential Securities, said: "Disclosure has been pretty inconsistent and that's part of the problem." While Citicorp and Morgan Stanley specified the size of their losses, DLJ only stated the total profit from operations.

Other banks that have disclosed large losses include Barclays, Credit Suisse First Boston and BankAmerica. JP Morgan said it had incurred losses but did not disclose their size or impact on overall profits.

Analysts were angered by JP Morgan's tactics. One banking specialist said: "The arrogance of it is breath-taking."

How do you value a company or trade its shares when they don't disclose liabilities? If the same happened in industry the company would be dealt with harshly.

JP Morgan's trading operations had been struggling even before the Russian and Asian crises. The commercial bank is finding it difficult to turn itself into an investment bank and merger speculation has surrounded it for months. The only way JP Morgan could now avoid disclosing embarrassingly large losses would be to be taken over.



Ian Mills, chief executive of Graham Group, was cautious but pleased with the results of the company's long-term strategy

### Graham builds on strategy

GRAHAM GROUP, the builders' merchant, raised pre-tax profits from £8.3 million to £10.5 million in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £244.7 million to £261.4 million (George Sivel writes). Earnings rose from 3.9p to 5.1p and the half-year dividend rose from 2.0p to 2.1p.

Ian Mills, chief executive, said he was cautious but that the group's improved results demonstrated the value being obtained from its long-term refurbishment strategy. The group said that it continues to win market share and that turnover and margin at the start of the second half showed improvements over the same period of last year.

### Jefferson Smurfit feels Asian effect

JEFFERSON SMURFIT, the Irish packaging group, yesterday said that its earnings growth will be less than expected this year because of a sharp fall in Asian demand for US exports of linerboard. Michael Smurfit, chairman, said that this would lead to a decline in total demand for the industry.

"As a result, product price increases announced for spring 1998 have been deferred, with list prices declining," he said.

The company reported a 55 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits, to £194.7 million (£81 million). There is a second interim dividend of 1p.85p, up 10 per cent. Smurfit's US subsidiary share of 16.2p, up 55 per cent. Smurfit's US subsidiary, agreed in May to merge with Stone Container Corporation, creating the world's largest maker of paper packaging. Mr Smurfit said: "Other producers must continue to consolidate... and ultimately become global players." Jefferson Smurfit Corporation, the US subsidiary, returned to profit in the first half after recovery in corrugated containers, but weak exports have reversed the upward trend.

### Britt Allcroft on the up

BRITT ALLCROFT, the children's TV characters company whose successes include *Thomas the Tank Engine*, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £3.04 million from £2.35 million in the rise to June 30. Earnings rose to 8.48p a share from 6.66p. A final dividend of 1.4p lifts the total to 2.1p a share from 1.6p. The shares rose 40p to 238.5p yesterday. Earlier this year Britt Allcroft bought the underlying rights to the Railway Series of books on which they were based. The success of the films and spin-off merchandising, including a new Thomas theme park in Japan, has helped to lift profits.

### Hickson profit up 30%

SHARES in Hickson International, the chemicals company, jumped by nearly a quarter yesterday as it reported a 30 per cent increase in pre-tax profits and paid its first interim dividend for three years. Shares closed 9 1/2p higher at 48p as the company, which came close to collapse in 1995, reported pre-tax profits of £5.6 million in the six months to 30 June. It would have made £900,000 more profit had it not been for the strong pound. Hickson has raised £90 million in a disposal programme to reduce debt. Earnings per share increased 37 per cent to 2.73p and the dividend is 0.6p. *Tempus*, page 28

### Ilion to sell loss-maker

ILION, the information technology group, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £4 million to £1.2 million in the six months to June 30, on sales up from £88.4 million to £125.6 million. Earnings per share fell from 11p to 3.5p a share and the half-year dividend dropped from 2p to 1p. Ilion said that the sale of the company's loss-making subsidiaries was under negotiation. Wayne Channon, the chairman, said that the United Kingdom and French operations continued to be profitable, and that there were substantial prospects for growth. The shares rose 5p to 59p.

### Partco accelerates

STRONG organic growth combined with the successful integration of recent acquisitions helped to push up interim pre-tax profits at Partco, the car parts group, by 29 per cent to £2.3 million (£9.5 million). Gordon Yardley, chairman, said he felt confident the group could underpin continued growth during the next 18 months. Turnover for the six months to June 30 was £216 million (£175 million). Earnings per share are 9.9p (9.4p) and a 3p (2.6p) interim dividend is proposed.

### Littlechild warns power link pair

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH HYDRO and Southern Electric will have to prove that their £4.9 billion merger will not delay electricity competition, the industry watchdog said yesterday.

The planned merger, announced on Tuesday, is to face extra scrutiny from Stephen Littlechild because both companies are lagging in the race to introduce competition into the household market. While several companies will open part of their regions to competition on September 14, Scottish Hydro will not begin opening its area until next month and

### Huntingdon secures £20m rescue deal

HUNTINGDON Life Sciences, which tests drugs and other products on animals, yesterday secured its £20 million financial rescue in the face of strong opposition from animal rights groups (Paul Durman writes).

Andrew Baker, who led the consortium of American investors that will own a 43 per cent stake in HLS, has taken over as chairman.

A spokesman for the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection said: "The campaign to bring about an end to animal research at HLS will continue."

### Contributions Agency attacked

BY SUSAN EMMETT

THE Contributions Agency, which handled more than £47 billion of National Insurance contributions last year, has been severely criticised in an independent report for failing to improve the standard of its work.

The report by the Adjudicator's Office accused the agency of carelessness and failing to deal with complaints effectively. Elizabeth Filkin, the adjudicator, said that while the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise improved their handling of complaints, the Contributions Agency still had a long way to go. Mrs Filkin said: "We saw several cases where the agency had not spotted mistakes, made assumptions and guesses, or not asked the customer to clarify the problem."

**TOURIST RATES**

Bank	Bank	
Days	Sales	
Australia S.....	2.95	2.77
Austria Sch.....	21.53	19.87
Belgium F.....	63.37	58.41
Canada S.....	2.703	2.515
Cyprus Cyp £.....	0.9023	0.8308
Denmark Kr.....	11.71	10.82
Egypt.....	3.90	6.29
Finland Mk.....	9.43	8.68
France F.....	10.25	9.47
Germany Dm.....	3.052	2.840
Greece Dr.....	524	485
Hong Kong S.....	13.76	12.56
India Rs.....	131	111
Ireland P.....	1.2163	1.1273
Israel Sh.....	6.73	6.07
Italy Lit.....	3058	2851
Japan Yen.....	244.49	226.56
Malta.....	0.677	0.618
Netherlands G.....	3.485	3.150
New Zealand S.....	3.46	3.22
Norway N.....	31.68	28.85
Y. rugul Sic.....	10.97	10.01
S Africa R.....	258.27	240.58
Spain P.....	14.06	12.96
Sweden Kr.....	2.558	2.340
Switzerland F.....	476.97	448.23
Turkey Lira.....	1.715	1.633
USA \$.....		

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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**CHANGING TIMES**

سكزا من الاصل

# Reading between the lines

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor



Insisting that their tongues are not even in their cheeks, the City's bankers have penned a letter of protest to the Office of Fair Trading over the behaviour of leading accounting firms. Since the OFT has subjected the banks to the indignity of a monopolies commission investigation into underwriting fees, one can understand that the victims of this unwarranted inquiry might be viewing other City practitioners with a new degree of scepticism. The surprising thing is that they have waited so long before pointing out the shortcomings of the accountancy profession.

Their gripe is not over the level of fees that would have taken a degree of brass neck that not even the brashness of the Square Mile's bankers could have managed without flinching. The object of their criticism is the wish of the accountants to insulate themselves from any responsibility. Always a tendency among the profession, this has now reached a level where it is threatening to make mergers and acquisitions, the great fee-drivers of the City, close to impossible to affect.

Simple people would assume that if accountants carry out a study of some figures, reach a conclusion and put their name to it, that means something. Far from it. As Lord Paul found in his infamous battle with the professionals, an auditors report may mean what it says to some

people but not to everyone. When he bought the radio company, Fidelity, he took some comfort from the auditors' report in the company's accounts. The accountants, however, were not going to be caught that way, oh no. A protracted legal battle produced the ruling that the auditors' report could only be relied upon by shareholders in the company that paid the bill. This was not something that was spelt out in the small print at the back of the report and accounts. Nothing in the notes explained that, unless you were a shareholder in the company, you might as well ignore the statement that assures that these figures give a true and fair view.

When it comes to providing due diligence on companies, there is less of a loophole for the accountants to wriggle through. The client is clear and there is no disputing the reliance that he is likely to be putting on the information provided by the accountant. This is a prospect that is causing understandable concern among the condensed ranks of the leading accounting firms. They look at the scale of the deals they are now being called to work on: they imagine the size of

the fee that can be generated; then they glimpse the extent of the damage that might be done if their investigations have failed to reveal the truth and the damages that might follow. Hence the various caveats that they are now trying to insert and which have driven the bankers to protest.

Big fees bring big responsibilities. The accountants will have to be brave - and increase their insurance premiums.

## Fight is on for dual structure

As employees of Associated Newspapers were still in shock after the sudden death of Lord Rothermere, the company wasted no time in reasserting them of one key fact: his family has no intention of relinquishing its control of the business.

The two-tier share structure allows the Harmsworth family to

own a minority of the shares in the holding company, the Daily Mail & General Trust, but retain a fierce grip over the way the business is run through its control of a majority of the votes. Most companies which employed such "us and them" dual share structures have now been forced to adopt more obviously democratic ways but investors have been content to allow DMGT to remain a family fiefdom for the simple reason that it has brought them rich rewards. Lord Rothermere had a remarkable reign and his investors reaped the benefits. For fund managers, voting power only assumes importance when companies fail to perform; otherwise, they are content to remain interested, but impotent, beneficiaries of good management.

It was Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, the South African enjambers of investment, who spotted the potential for targeting poor-performing compa-

nies with dual share structures. They set about demanding enfranchisement of the second-class shares as the price that unsuccessful managers would have to pay for their failings. Aquascutum and Liberty were among those to cave in to their demands. After a long-running battle, even the Savoy Group was eventually forced into giving up its cherished two-tier structure, although only to succumb to takeover. Now DMGT and Schroders are the only major companies to have two classes of investor, although a raft of smaller businesses remain family controlled courtesy of a dual share structure.

The Association of British Insurers and National Association of Pension Funds are relatively muted in their opposition to the schemes because, *caveat emptor*, they knew what they were buying. Ironically, the CBI has even suggested that there could be a modern incarnation of the dual share structure, as a method for

encouraging family businesses to tap into outside sources of capital without relinquishing control. On the basis of what has gone before at DMGT, this might not be such a bad idea. It may now fall on Jonathan Harmsworth to demonstrate that it may be a very sound suggestion.

## Keeping power in the right hands

Nationalist fervour is apparently trying to dictate the shape of corporate activity north of the border. Jim Forbes, chief executive of Southern Electric, may be happy to quit the Home Counties for Perthshire. Nonetheless there are worrying implications behind the suggestion that the Scottish Office had indicated it might be opposed to Southern's £4.8 billion merger with Scottish Hydro-Electric unless the resulting entity was headquartered in Scotland.

Cheaper labour and property prices almost certainly mean that there are savings to be had from moving jobs from Maidenhead to Perth but whether the merged company chooses to take advantage of them should surely

be a question for management. Instead, it seems that Mr Forbes may have been blackmailed, however subtly, into a rapid appreciation of what Scotland has to offer. Had the Scottish Office seen a leading head office heading south, it could have objected to the deal. The DTI's attitude to power sector mergers is riddled with confusion, and rumbles of discontent from the Scottish Office might have prompted queries over how the public interest was to be served by it, and subjected it to the nuisance of a monopolies commission inquiry.

Instead, Scottish jobs are preserved and Mr Forbes gets his deal. But what happens when Charlotte Square financiers want to merge with English companies? Keeping the nationalists happy might not be so easy.

## Fit for opportunities

AS the underwriters were left with a hefty chunk of the JJB rights issue - so providing a useful demonstration to Denise Kingsmill and the MMC that the underwriting system does work - Philip Green was holidaying in France. assured that his share of the proceeds for selling Sports Division to JJB would still be flowing into his bank account. After his perfectly timed exit from sports retailing, the energetic Green will be fit, ready and well-funded to exploit the next opportunity.

# Matalan and Monsoon hit the highs and lows

By PAUL DURMAN

MONSOON and Matalan, two clothing retailers that have endured a difficult introduction to life as quoted companies, yesterday produced contrasting bulletins on the latest shopping trends.

Monsoon's shops, which sell women's wear, bags and hats based on ethnic designs reported a 6 per cent decline in sales over the past 13 weeks, while Matalan's out-of-town stores showed a 6 per cent increase in their latest like-for-like figures.

Andrew May, Monsoon's finance director, blamed the poor trading on "the most dire weather conditions... in the first half of that quarter" - a period in which Monsoon usually enjoys bumper sales.

Since Matalan's latest like-for-like figures only cover the past eight weeks, the worst of the weather fell in its first half. In the 27 weeks to July 4, its like-for-like sales were only 2.7 per cent higher, compared with a 14.2 per cent rise in the same period in 1997.

In a strong stock market, both share prices rallied. Monsoon climbed 9 1/2p to 112p, and Matalan rose 25 1/2p to 246p, above its May flotation price of 235p. Monsoon remains far below the 198p at which its shares were priced in February. However, although Mr



Angus Monro, who saw Matalan rise above its flotation price

May and three other directors bought 225,000 shares at 113p yesterday, analysts cut back their forecasts from £31.5 million to £30 million. One analyst said Monsoon's slowdown

shares in the flotation, bought back 200,000 shares. He still controls more than 70 per cent of the company.

In the year to May 31, Monsoon made pre-tax profits of £26.6 million, a 13 per cent increase after adjusting for ownership changes made in the run-up to flotation. Total sales grew by 14 per cent to £123.4 million. It is paying a final dividend of 3p a share.

Matalan, whose chief executive is Angus Monro, sells discount clothing and came in ahead of forecasts with interim pre-tax profits of £4.7 million, more than double the previous year's £1.8 million. This was after paying out £1.3 million in pre-flotation management incentives. Matalan's sales were 18 per cent higher at £119.1 million. It is not paying an interim dividend.

Monsoon plans this year to add another 40 stores to its existing 218, which include 108 Monsoon shops and 81 branches of Accessorize, the hats and bags chain. It is also experimenting with cosmetics and petite sizes for Monsoon.

Matalan said it had traded strongly in menswear and children's wear. It has opened new stores in Birmingham, Wigan, Aberdeen, Clydebank and Glasgow, and has plans for a further seven in the second half.

Peter Simon, the chairman who cashed in £90 million of

## Helping hand for JJB issue

UNDERWRITERS of the £105 million rights issue organised by Warburg Dillon Read to finance JJB's £290 million acquisition of Sports Division have been pressed into action because of the general market slide and concern about the enlarged group's prospects (See Commentary, this page).

Warburg said yesterday that just 63.4 per cent of the stock had been taken up and the rest had been taken up by the sub-underwriters. It is understood Warburg was left with less than 3 per cent of the stock by the close.

Yesterday JJB shares closed at 393 1/2p, down 1/2p. Terms of the rights issue were seven shares at 440p for each 25 held. The closing price on the day before the rights issue was announced was 533 1/2p. On impact day they closed at 516 1/2p.

## Wilson Bowden shares leap on strong interims

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES in Wilson Bowden, the housebuilder, rose from 493 1/2p to 512 1/2p yesterday after the group reported a strong set of interim figures.

Pre-tax profits rose 23 per cent to £35.8 million on sales up 6.3 per cent to £245.1 million.

Earnings rose 28.3 per cent to 27.2p out of which the half-year dividend rose 21.2 per cent to 4p.

City reaction to the results was mixed. One analyst raised full-year forecasts from £76 million to £79 million. Others, however, raised doubts over the margin outlook for the company.

David Wilson, the chairman and chief executive of Wilson Bowden, yesterday said: "The group has successfully continued its policy of seeking

to deliver sustainable growth coupled with optimisation of margins whenever market conditions allow."

He added that the activity under way in the property division meant that the profit for the full year should at least match last year's excellent result despite the absence of any one large dominant project this year.

"I have emphasised that land remains a major issue within the housebuilding industry and in the current circumstances our long land bank policy gives us great comfort," Mr Wilson said.

"Provided therefore that the market runs to form in the autumn as one would normally expect, then the full year will produce further good results."

## IT sector boosted by CMG

CMG, the computer consultant and software designer, gave the information technology sector a comforting shot in the arm yesterday with an upbeat review of prospects (Robert Cole writes).

Cor Stutterheim, the chief executive, said: "The industry is continuing to benefit from an extended period of exceptionally strong demand."

Of CMG, he said: "Our main markets remain buoyant" and he reported that the company increased pre-tax profits by 59 per cent in the six months to June 30. It made £24 million, up from £15.1 million.

Most IT sector shares rose, reversing the downward trend. CMG closed 187 1/2p higher at £18.62.

Tempus, page 28

## Future rosy says Flying Flowers

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

FLYING FLOWERS, the Jersey mail order company, has sought to reassure shareholders that the company still has a sound future despite issuing two profit warnings in as many months.

Since the first profit warning on July 15 shares of the company have lost over two thirds of their value, dropping from 550p to 148p last week. The shares closed at 165p yesterday.

The company has blamed trading problems at Gardening Direct, which sells bedding plants via mail order, for the disappointing results. Pre-tax profits for the six months to July 3 were down 18 per cent at £2.8 million (£3.4 million) on turnover down 11 per cent at £23.7 million (£26.7 million).

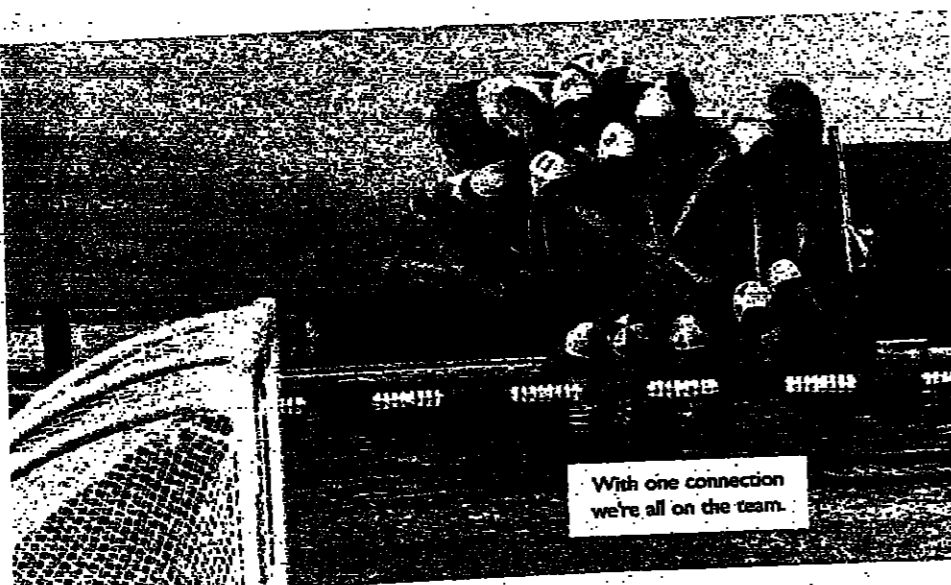
Walter Goldsmith, chairman, said that the shortfall in profitability of Gardening Direct had overshadowed an otherwise satisfactory six months in the rest of the business.

"The fundamentals of our core business are still in place, namely the building of customer databases in key niche markets. It is these databases that are the engines for future growth," he said.

He added that Gardening Direct was still a young brand but dominated its sector. "We believe we can recruit significant numbers of customers for the foreseeable future," he said.

He said Flying Flowers was continuing to build its database, although it was affected to some degree by the retail market conditions in the latter part of the year.

The interim dividend has been frozen at 2.45p. Earnings per share are down to 8.95p from 11.33p.



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE closes ahead with help of half-hearted rally

SHARE prices rallied in London on the back of the overnight rebound on Wall Street. But it was a half-hearted affair, lacking conviction, which was clearly reflected in investor sentiment.

Most traders see events yesterday as merely a lull in the storm and fear further turbulence. The problems of Russia, Latin America and the Far East remain prominent.

The FTSE 100 index raced ahead in early trading but never looked like consolidating its position. Having been 172 points up at one stage, it closed 66.7 ahead at 5,235.8.

Dealers reported two-way trade with some investors taking the opportunity to sell into the market's rise. A total of 929 million shares had traded by the close.

The information and technology stocks rallied after Tuesday's shake-out, with CMG up 187p to £18.62 after results. David 137p to £12.12. Logica 97p to £16.92, and London Bridge 137p to £10.37.

Orange, down 28p at 584p, was unworried by reports coming out of the Far East overnight suggesting Hutchison Whampoa may sell some of its holding in the mobile-phone operator in order to acquire a stake in Hong Kong Telecom. Orange was floated, Hong Kong Telecom's biggest shareholder is Cable & Wireless, which rallied 25p to 594p. Meanwhile, rival Vodafone hardened 7p to 748p amid claims that it is poised to bid for a US mobile-phone operator.

Barclays Bank continued to reel from this week's shock news that it had made provisions of £250 million after the collapse in the Russian economy. The price closed 54p down at £12.83.

Associated British Foods firmed 2p to 508p. But Panmure Gordon, the broker, has cut its profits forecast for the current year by £15 million to £400 million.

Charterhouse Tiney, the broker, still rates Asda, up 4p at 184p, as a "hold" but has reduced its forecast for the current year. Charterhouse has also cut its forecast for Safeway, up 7p at 322p, from £375 million to £360 million. It is urging clients to "sell".



Tim Bowdler, left, and Marco Chiappelli, finance director of the Hickson Press, saw the company's shares nudge ahead

getting closer with the price adding 4 1/2p at 150p. Wassall, the industrial conglomerate, holds about 10 per cent of the shares and is tipped to make an offer for the rest. Wassall firmed 2p to 248 1/2p.

Siebe rose 12 1/2p to 222 1/2p. BBA, 5 1/2p to 367 1/2p, while FKI held steady at 123p. Panmure Gordon has trimmed its numbers for all

three but has been telling clients they have already been heavily oversold. City speculators continued to chase David Brown higher with the price adding 10p at 237 1/2p. Last week the group said it was in talks that could lead to a bid. The breakdown in bid talks left Cresta Car 4p lower at 31 1/2p.

Incepta held steady at 22 1/2p. There should be news next week of the financial PR and advertising agency agreement terms to buy rival outfit Dewe Rogerson.

A large seller of stock at the lower levels left Hickson Press nursing a fall of 18p at 355 1/2p.

Directors of lacklustre Cairn Energy have taken advantage of the recent weak share price. The price firmed 1p to 104 1/2p yesterday.

Share-buying and evidence that Hickson International is back on the road to recovery helped lift its shares 9 1/2p to 48 1/2p. Profits surged 30 per cent to £5.6 million in the first six months.

Johnston Press, up 1p firmer at 16 1/2p, is back on the acquisition trail. It has snapped up eight local newspapers for £8 million.

The company, whose chief executive is Tim Bowdler, bought the titles, which circulate in the Bedfordshire and Buckingham areas, from Eastern Counties Newspapers. The move coincided with news of a 25 per cent jump in profits to £2.4 million.

JJB Sports shaded up to 39 1/2p as underwriters were left with 9.3 million unwanted shares from the group's £105 million rights issue at 440p back in July.

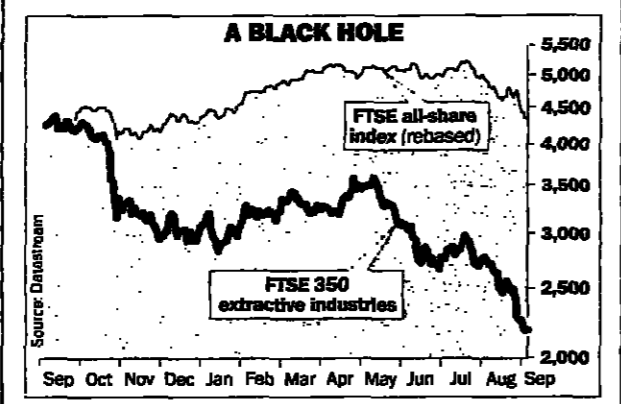
The weakness in the Zimbabwean dollar is causing all sorts of problems for Adam & Harvey which slumped 25p to 225p after its annual meeting.

GILT-EDGED: The revival of fortunes for the equity market, no matter how brief it may prove to be, spelt trouble for the bond market. But prices rallied towards the close with longer-dated issues ending with small gains, while shorts suffered losses of a few ticks.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt closed £0.05 down at £11.85 in moderate turnover that saw 49,000 contracts completed. The five-year future lost £0.21 at £105.24.

Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose three ticks to £135 1/2, while in shorts Treasury 7 per cent 2002 lost six ticks at £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares were higher at midday after the second session of gains as Wall Street moved in to buy stocks on the cheap after the sharp downturn in the markets. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 89.34 points at 7,916.77.



Source: DataStream

THERE are few signs of cheer for companies looking to improve earnings growth by digging holes underground. The Russian crisis will have only added to the woes of the extractive industry and it seems further profits downgrades may be expected in the months ahead.

BT Alex Brown, the broker, is confident that all the extractive companies it covers, with the exception of RUB Mining, up 3 1/2p at 98 1/2p, will enjoy earnings growth during the forthcoming interim dividend reporting season. But prospects a little further out remain gloomy.

Nick Wilson, at BT Alex Brown, says macroeconomic factors "continue to worsen and, with a further fall in demand and metal prices due to the Russian crisis, forecasts are likely to be downgraded yet again".

The best performance is likely to come from Billiton, up 15 1/2p at 114p, as it endeavours to remain a constituent of the top 100 companies. But a further slide is expected in English China, up 2 1/2p at 149 1/2p, and Rio Tinto, 13 1/2p better at 580p.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues: Chaucer A Wtr 12p, Coca-Cola (160) 150p, Enterprise Cap B Pf 5p, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues: Cadore n/p (35) 00p, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major changes: Brit Alcon 238p (+40p), Television Corp 189p (+25p), etc.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 7916.77 (+89.34), S&P Composite 1009.61 (+14.35)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 14376.62 (+6.99)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 7355.67 (+203.30)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1100.26 (+32.02)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2516.00 (+57.80)

Frankfurt: DAX 4970.50 (+178.69)

Singapore: Straits Times 827.85 (+4.52)

Brussels: BEL20 3254.68 (+132.80)

Paris: CAC 3720.67 (+83.38)

Zurich: SMI 1344.00 (+47.30)

London: FTSE 100 5235.8 (+66.7), FTSE 250 4712.0 (+7.7), etc.

RECENT ISSUES: Chaucer A Wtr 12p, Coca-Cola (160) 150p, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES: Cadore n/p (35) 00p, etc.

MAJOR CHANGES: Brit Alcon 238p (+40p), Television Corp 189p (+25p), etc.

FALLS: Madsen 212p (-219p), Hampden Group 57p (-18p), etc.

Other market data: Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS Selling points

CMG, the computer consultancy and software designer, is a wonderful company. It operates in an almost magical business segment where demand is growing quickly and sustainably. Moreover, operators such as CMG are at full stretch meeting the demand, which means that prices charged for services rendered are comfortably large.

CMG is well run by a sensible and sober management team. It rises to the biggest challenges that pose some of the biggest conundrums. Its operations are so wide that it is not exposed to risk that one type of client, or one kind of business, will disappear.

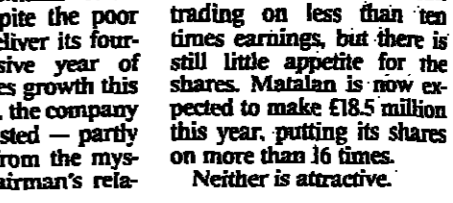
CMG is well run by a sensible and sober management team. It rises to the biggest challenges that pose some of the biggest conundrums. Its operations are so wide that it is not exposed to risk that one type of client, or one kind of business, will disappear.

In short, CMG is brilliant. The trouble is that the shares are quite simply too expensive to consider buying. Trading as they do on a P/E ratio of 60-plus the shares are not just overvalued, but completely off the scale.

Clothes retailers

MONSOON and Matalan, the clothing retailers, were both worth about £200 million. Both sought demanding flotation valuations earlier this year, and both have had their histories as quoted companies blighted by sharp share price reversals.

SHOPS THAT DROP



Source: DataStream

Matalan clearly had the better of the two companies' debut figures yesterday, although the contrast between the 6 per cent rise in its like-for-like sales and the 6 per cent fall at Monsoon is

flattered by the exclusion of June's trading from its latest bulletin.

Monsoon remains confident that, despite its fourteenth successive year of profits and sales growth this year. However, the company is not well trusted - partly an overhang from the mystique of the chairman's relationship with a Maltese trust.

Serco

AFTER sprinting ahead from 77p to almost £1.50 in less than a year, shares in Serco were due for a breather. But dedicated followers of this company can look forward to further gains.

Downgraded profit forecasts will leave Monsoon trading on less than ten times earnings, but there is still little appetite for the shares. Matalan is now expected to make £18.5 million this year, putting its shares on more than 16 times.

Neither is attractive.

Long before outsourcing became the mantra of modern management, Serco was taking over many of the tasks that many government bodies and private companies preferred not to do.

The shares, up 47p to £12.40 yesterday, are a buy.

But not only is Serco an old hand at this game, the opportunities to exploit new income streams emerge daily. Serco has also enjoyed success out-

side the UK, establishing strong links with the private sector in countries such as Italy, Belgium and Germany, where the state sector has not yet fully embraced the ethos of public and private partnerships.

When they do, Serco will be there.

Enthusiasm for Psion shares has cooled since, but much of Psion's future depends on how the Symbian tie-up with Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola fares. The hope is to create a new gener-

ation of online palmtop computers and communications devices. Although both Psion and the mobile-phone companies have put significant amounts of money and effort into this venture, it is far from certain that it will work. Joint ventures can easily disintegrate, especially when faced with competition from Windows and, probably, Sun Microsystems.

In the meantime sales of the company's palmtop computer are falling, as competition in the market gets tougher. Its little-known networking components and industrial divisions look healthier, but even these failed to make Psion's interim results look anything but flat.

Psion is an exciting company but it is too narrowly based and too dependent on unproven hopes to be worth 495p - equivalent to about 48 times historic earnings per share. Take profits.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

Table for COCOA: Sep 1048-1049, Dec 1180-1181, etc.

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Table for Three Mth Sterling: Sep 96.50, 96.50, 96.50, 96.50, etc.

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Debut UK pl

Main Market

Grounded

Grounded

Grounded

Grounded

Grounded

Grounded

# Act fast to stop a global slump

Let us hope that Western stock markets can correct their "excessive exuberance" without going too far. Our experience of the 1987 crash should help to avoid any panic. If only Eastern markets had been able to do that we would not face the threat of a global economic slump. But we do.

A third of the world economy is already in recession. Japan is in the mire. Others are falling vertically or just sliding over the edge. The sickness is catching.

Thanks to "outraged" New Deal laws, even a 25 per cent fall in New York share prices would not of itself push the American economy into recession. For different reasons, Frankfurt would not spell automatic disaster for those forced to sell.

Even a sharp correction will, however, intensify the danger, by feeding back into markets that are already down and out. The worst impact of last week's slide on Wall Street was felt by Japanese banks.

The global economy is more of a reality than in 1987. But it does not

move as one. It is like a circle spun by trends in trade, commodity prices and financial markets.

Recession is a threat because the West wildly underplayed the speculative domino collapse of Asia's "tigers" last autumn. That complacency had strong racialist overtones.

Satisfaction that Koreans et al had been put in their place blinded many to secondary effects such as the fall in the price of oil. This floored Russia and is now transmitting the plague of recession to parts of Latin America. In turn, Russia's need to flog anything available wrecks havoc in South Africa by slashing the gold price.

Recent falls in Western share prices are merely the latest feedback. Even the prospect of slow growth in Western economies will rapidly wing its way round an ever more vicious circle.

Nearly as loathsome as the race

element has been the intellectual smugness of fans of untrammelled, transparent capital markets over their defeat of the rival Asian model, which put growth and stable employment first.

These countries had merely paid the price of their own effrontery, which was deemed to have no wider significance.

Sadly, that victory was an empty one. By laying waste to economies that had recently opened their financial systems, the OECD/IMF model discredited itself. Once monetary stimulus is exhausted, as in Japan, it offers no route out of a non-inflationary slump. Only a co-operative model is likely to avert global slump, if that proves necessary. We must bet that it will.

Opening the monetary taps worked a treat in 1987, notwithstanding the unique and unnecessary side-effects in Britain. Since



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

then, it has become fashionable among bankers to scoff at this deviation from orthodoxy. Yet it was as vital as the nuclear deterrent.

Starting at Alan Greenspan's meeting with Kichii Miyazawa tomorrow, Western central bankers should say that they will cut interest rates to offset any credit shortage arising from falling share prices.

Small, symbolic immediate cuts would help. The tiny risk of 5 per cent inflation is worth taking.

Large resources should be mobilised, in any case, to rebuild the financial ruins of the East and to restore confidence. The need is not for aid but for recycling of international liquidity and of assets. About \$2,000 billion might suffice.

Half of this might be channelled via the International Finance Corporation or regional equivalents into the smaller stricken stock markets at what will prove bargain prices if slump is averted. This recycling centre should be financed by undated low-interest bonds in yen, euros or dollars and invested via closed-end funds. The aim, modest by recent Hong Kong standards, would be to invest \$1 billion a day for three years.

The funds would favour new equity to replace local debt and could

invest new equity in banks direct. The loans would have to be guaranteed collectively by taxpayers, mainly in the European Union, North America and Japan, at the equivalent of about \$1,000 a head. It would be cheap at the price, even if guarantees were called. In practice, the funds would eventually be sold to local pension schemes, allowing the debt to be retired.

The second \$1,000 billion would deploy existing foreign exchange reserves, which are still plentiful in the Far East. Countries taking part in four regions would allow part of their reserves to back loans to be raised by regional development banks or related institutions, as suggested by Hong Kong's Monetary Authority. This common fund would provide a liquidity buffer, strictly for smaller currencies operating in open markets at sensible exchange rates, regular-

ly agreed with their neighbours. Japan's most vital contribution is to apply such measures to itself. Only here should interest rates be raised to improve returns on saving and encourage spending.

There are welcome signs of public sector support for the stock market. Like others, Japan should also make sure its banks stay afloat or merge. As a model, the 1974 UK bank lifboat is preferable to an IMF drowning. But taxpayers should only provide voting capital.

For these measures to work, and to preserve the free trade in goods and services essential for a dynamic world economy, some limits are needed to speculative capital flows. These should be targeted narrowly, rather than damning helpful derivatives, and should be standard, at least across a region.

To foster such agreements and set up such an anti-slump programme, a task force ought to be set up at next month's IMF meeting with a 12 month deadline and chaired by a strong world leader (Helmut Kohl may be available). Global slump seems more likely.

# Debunking the myth behind UK plc's favourite mantra

Martin Waller reports on the consultants questioning the importance of shareholder value

A team of management consultants is about to prove what many harassed chief executives have long suspected — that there is no automatic causal link between a company's financial performance and its rating on the stock market.

The strategy team at AT Kearney's UK practice has been working since February on a study that analyses all the FTSE 100 companies, alive or defunct, since the index's inception in 1984, according to their performance and their share prices, and whether the one influences the other.

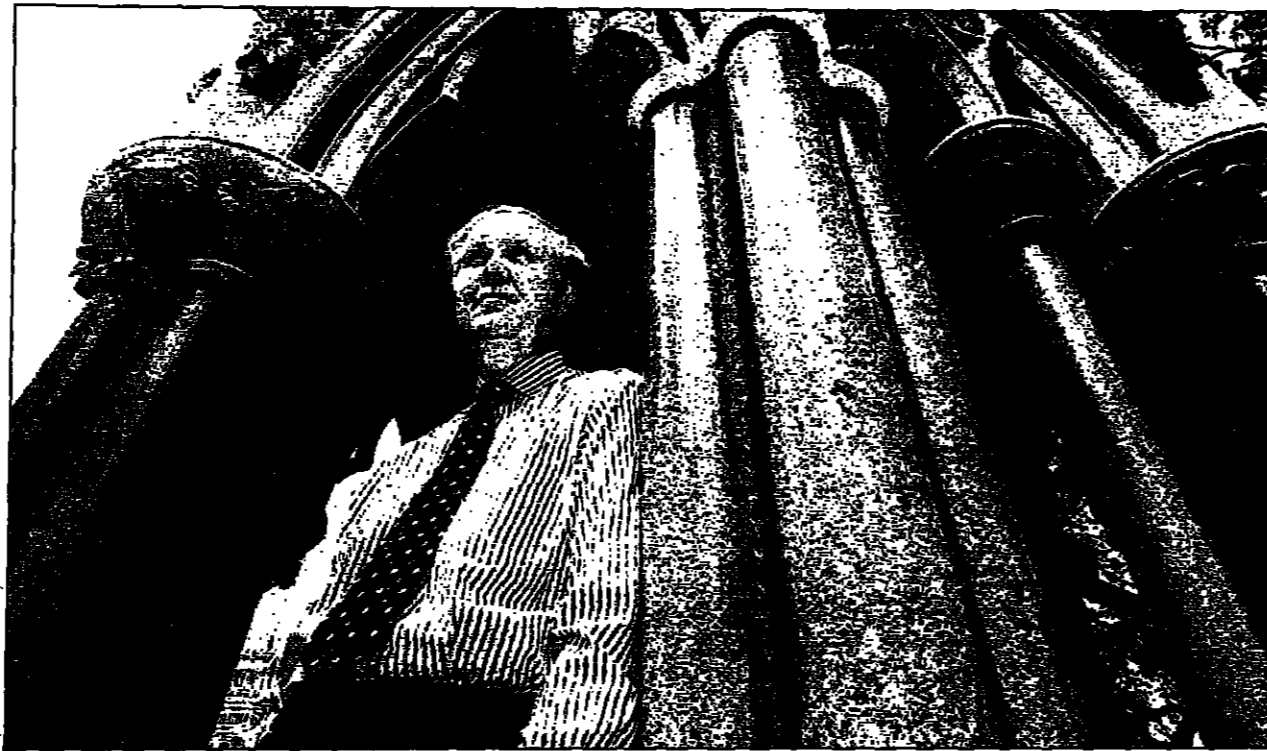
Stephen Francis, who leads the strategy team, says: "This is true much less than is believed. We see much less of a link between efficiency improvements and share prices than is believed."

"It is believed to be hard-wired, but it is a very complex subject, and current assumptions are a gross simplification."

Francis and his colleague, Chris Paxton, are part of a team who go into companies and advise on the creation of shareholder value. This has become something of a vogue, perhaps because directors of faltering companies need to make it clear to their shareholders that action is being taken.

Albert Fisher, a consistent and notorious stock market underperformer, went to the lengths of issuing a formal stock market announcement in July saying it was bringing in Lazard Brothers and an unnamed management consultant to advise on "appropriate methods to rebuild shareholder value". The need for such action was clear enough: the share price had collapsed to a new low after yet another in a series of profit warnings from the food producer.

Management consultants



Charles Miller-Smith introduced a strategy that, it is said, would not be allowed by today's doctrine of shareholder value

have been brought in to advise companies in need of extra guidance for as long as the profession has been around, that is, since the Second World War in some cases. Bain, memorably, advised Guinness, setting the company on a course of action that, with hindsight, might best have been avoided. Kingfisher, the retail combine, hired McKinsey some years ago for a strategic review.

Francis says the Kearney study was prompted by the general feeling, among politicians and the general public as well as in business, that the relentless downsizing and efficiency drives of the past decade might have been taken too far and be having a deleterious effect on the corporate sector.

"People are intuitively saying something isn't right. But they don't know what. We tried to find something empirical that would prove it."

He is sceptical about sudden espousals of the doctrine of shareholder value, such as that by Albert Fisher. "It's an interesting thing to announce to the world at large — it's like formally announcing, 'I'm going to the doctor.'"

He is equally dubious about the whole concept of shareholder value as it is currently perceived.

The first use of return on capital as measure of performance was by Dupont in the 1920s. The phrase "shareholder value" was coined by an American business guru a decade ago.

"It has come to equal creating cashflows into the future, and so being rewarded by the stock market. When people talk about shareholder value it has become simplified to 'We are aligning our business to generate cash,'" says Francis.

In a bull market, there are obvious abuses, such as overgenerous share option packages for management when, as Kearney claims to be able to prove, what drives share prices may be out of management's control.

Francis cites as examples the arrival of a highly rated chief executive from elsewhere, which tends to lift the price, and likewise the threat of a takeover bid.

"The concern we have at AT Kearney is that shareholder value has been simplified in its application."

"This came about during a recession during which companies had to cut costs and spin off underperforming businesses to survive."

"The problem is that this was applied as a substitute for

good management — boards put the company on autopilot, guided by shareholder value."

"As a result UK plc is a very anorexic-looking thing. It has hollowed out and has lost the growth gene, and the ability to innovate. Where is the British Microsoft?"

"We say that is a marked consequence of a very narrow view of shareholder value."

Much-needed changes of direction can be precluded by a strict adherence to the need to maximise short-term returns come what may. Francis points to ICI early in 1997, and Charles Miller-Smith's decision to acquire speciality chemicals while spinning off bulk chemicals. "That would not be allowed by the doctrine of shareholder value."

Paxton says the stock market has become used to hearing that companies are managed for shareholder value. "It's an easy hit from an investor relations point of view, but it's a one-message hit."

Francis says: "Institutional investors themselves are under more pressure to perform. It's no longer pension funds with 30-year tenure; now the challenge comes within months, judged by league ta-

bles of performance." This summer the United Kingdom has been noted for the string of excuses, whether strength of sterling, the weather, Asia, even the World Cup, wheeled out by underperforming managements.

"There's a long list of things managements are blaming for blowing them off course. Manufacturing is struggling and uncompetitive businesses are being exposed by the strength of sterling."

"One thing they can do is to say very loudly, 'We've got religion. We're focusing on shareholder value'. By taking action, such as hiring consultants and sending signals that say 'We are doing something about it.'"

Francis points to companies such as Lorrho, a slow decline from its peak in the 1960s, and conglomerates such as Hanson and BTR that believed financial management to be the be-all and end-all. "The market will find out eventually."

A consultant such as Kearney will look at top management and the salaries and bonuses of key managers.

Francis says: "Despite all the fuss over fat cats, if you look at the top of most UK public companies they are largely rewarded regardless of what happens."

Performance measures must be aligned with pay. Too often, he says, bonuses take account of the share price but not of the individual circumstances of the company. It would be absurd to use the same scheme at Glaxo, which has benefited enormously from the strength of pharmaceuticals, and at British Steel. "You have to look at what people can realistically achieve, and modify the package accordingly."

There is a need to encourage managers to take on risk and pay them for it. "We don't want to minimise risk. We want to encourage sensible entrepreneurship throughout the company."

"People who take calculated gambles and fall ought to be rewarded a whole lot more in pay and career terms than those who take no risks at all. Yet most of UK plc rewards people who don't take risks."

Francis points to one company he has worked for that boasts that it has never turned down an investment proposal that came from any of its divisions.

There was not evidence of a willingness to accept anything, however weird; divisional managers had simply learnt that it was not worth putting forward ideas in the first place.

Notwithstanding their belief that efficiency is not directly linked to share price performance, the Kearney team is convinced that in a bull market, so many expectations are built into share prices that these are of necessity fragile creatures.

Francis points to the sharp percentage fall in the shares that accompanied ICI's recent profits warning. "Under-delivery today is punished far more severely than four to five years ago."

Then there is the strategy.

# Advertisers must refocus in digital age

Ten years ago, if a company wanted to create interest in a new product it would invest in a few advertising slots during the latest ITV crime drama, stick up some billboard posters in metropolitan areas and buy a few pages in the national press. Then it would sit back and wait for the phones to start ringing.

But with digital technology heading for the high street, life is certain to get more complicated for advertisers. Even the smallest of companies will have to look at how they attract and inform new and existing customers.

The prospect of hundreds of commercial television channels — coupled with the growing popularity of the Internet — is leading some commentators to claim that it will eventually become impossible for advertisers to reach a mass audience.

This is not necessarily true — some programmes will always have mass appeal — but the explosion in media will force companies of all sizes to use increasingly high-tech methods to make the most of their advertising budgets. This is all good news for media buyers and strategists, such as Tempus and Aegis, who are hoping that the confusion created by the launch of multichannel digital services will make companies flock to them for advice.

One aspect of digital television that could benefit advertisers is its focus on specialist channels. These will allow companies to target specific audiences. The same benefits apply to the Internet.

The challenge for advertisers, however, is for companies to find out which of these outlets fits their products. They must also learn that different rules apply in the online world. There is no point in using a Website as an advertis-



ing medium, for example, if no one knows it exists or where it can be found. The days of throwing money at the general public and hoping that some of it will stick will soon be over.

WAGE bills in the IT departments of Britain's companies would rise by £2 billion if all the jobs currently on offer were filled, according to research by Computer Weekly. The number of jobs in the sector on offer during April, May and June this year topped 65,000 for the first time, up 42 per cent on last year. IT managers were among 14 professions in the sector that saw double-digit wage increases, enjoying average salaries of £50,000. Consultants in the sector enjoyed average salaries of £73,000. However, the magazine said the boom in demand for IT jobs is now showing signs of peaking.

ONE of the first satellite mobile phones — able to make calls from far-flung locations — has gone on the market priced at £2,595, with a call rate of £1.85 per minute (depending on exchange rates). The O'Gara Mobilphone can be used for voice, fax and data calls. Kroll-O'Gara, the American company that makes the phone, says that normal cell-phones work on only 15 per cent of the world's surface.

CHRIS AYRES

# Grounded...

AS AIRCRAFT manufacturers limber up for next week's Farnborough air show, British Aerospace and Dassault of France are thought to be preparing to use the event to formalise a joint venture under which they have been developing new technology for fighter aircraft of the future.

Although it is hardly big news — the two sides have actually been working on the project for two years — it is the sort of event that Serge Dassault, the flamboyant boss of the group cre-



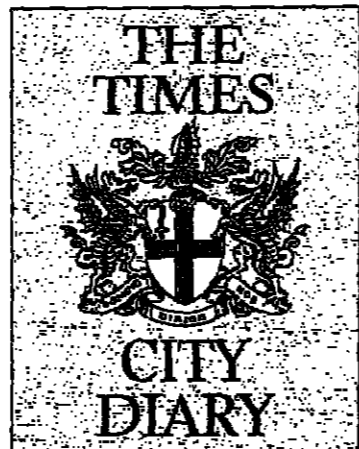
Serge Dassault will be assisting Belgian authorities with inquiries

ated by his father Marcel, has always revelled in.

But this year's ceremonies might have to proceed without him. As of yesterday, M Dassault and ten former Belgian officials, including the former Nato chief Willy Claes, are on trial in Brussels in alleged kickbacks on aerospace contracts.

A spokesman for Dassault assures me he will still be attending Farnborough, but I remain sceptical. The international arrest warrant put out by the Belgian authorities in connection with the affair forced M Dassault to cancel a big press beano at Claridge's during the last air show two years ago.

RICHARD BRANSON is not the sort of person to let fears of a global meltdown dent his rather irritating cheerfulness. Unfazed by the recent market gyrations, the Virgin boss was happy to put his money where his mouth is at this week's launch of a television advertising campaign for the new Virgin One account, betting £100 that the FTSE 100 will hit 6,310 in a year's time. Such optimism is all very well. But with shares in Victory Corporation, his cosmetics and fashion group, languishing at 10p against 50p at flotation two years ago, it sounds more like a case of wishful thinking.



Parting shots

THE haemorrhage of economic talent from Midland Bank's HSBC Markets group continues apace. The latest top name to leave, to an as-yet-unnamed new firm, is Ian Shepherdson, HSBC's respected chief US economist (and an avid, if worried, Newcastle United fan).

His departure follows hard on the heels of that of his boss (and Times columnist), chief economist Roger Bootle, who is leaving to pursue a range of writing and consultancy interests; Mark Cliffe, HSBC's international economist, who has joined Barings; and Gray Newman, the firm's Latin American expert in New York who has jumped ship to join Merrill Lynch.

But the defections appear to have less to do with the bank's torrid time at the hands of the Asian economic crisis than with seething resentment in the wake of the merger of the HSBC research team with that of James Capel. Having had to face up to the inconvenience of having two fully-fledged economic research teams, HSBC may yet come to regret losing the core of the better-known and (in the opinion of some) better-respected of the two.

# Stupid Cupid

I AM indebted to the reader who has sent me an intriguing cutting from the small ads section of the *Hammer-smith & Fulham Chronicle*. In the fun-sounding "Would like to meet" section is an advertisement entitled "Looking for Wendy?" in which someone called Phil is trying to trace a young lady he met on holiday in Tenerife during the last week of July.

In a touching plea, our loverlorn hero writes: "We danced the night at Bobby's, then walked by the beach. You were with your sister and friend. You live in Fulham, play hockey for England and work in the City. I'd love to see you again."

I would happily play Cupid by forwarding any possible leads to Phil, but I fear tracking Wendy down could prove a tad tricky. Cathy Harris, *The Times* Women's Hockey Correspondent, says: "There is nobody called Wendy who plays for England. I wonder if she wasn't stringing this poor chap along."

FINANCE directors are an industrious lot. According to one of those pointless surveys — this time from Accountancy Age magazine and Reed Accountancy Personnel — most FDs believe they work under too much pressure, poor lumps. One of those questioned said: "Part of my job is to juggle many balls and have fingers in virtually all pies." Too many pies, sometimes. In 1993, Nissan UK's Frank Shannon got three years for tax fraud, and a year later Wilfred Aquilina of Brent Walker was done for false accounting.

DOMINIC WALSH



"I can't cope with his mood swings"

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# Maiden left stunned by reaction to warning

BY CHRIS AYRES

ADVERTISING executives were left open-mouthed yesterday when Maiden, the outdoor advertising company, saw its share price halve after issuing a profits warning.

Shares in Maiden — which owns billboard sites at railway stations and on roadsides, plus poster sites at supermarkets — dived 219p to 212½p when it said there had been a "general decline" in advertising spending after the World Cup.

It added that its full-year market forecasts would not be met. Shares in Maiden had rocketed from 266½p two years ago to a recent high of 470p.

The warning raised questions in the City over whether the recent £475 million acquisition of Maiden's rival, More Group, by Clear Channel Communications of the US, had been overpriced.

Industry sources said More Group had also suffered from the general decline in advertising spending, but as part of Clear Channel it would not have to publish results in Britain.

Maiden's profits warning was also a bleak indication of the overall slowing down of the British economy. Advertising companies are often used as bell-wethers for the general health of the economy.

Ron Zeghibe, Maiden's chief executive who owns a 75 per cent stake in the company, yesterday said: "The City has clearly overreacted. What we are probably looking at is a short but sharp downturn. People have put their hands up in horror and run for the hills."

"We are not saying we are going to lose money or not be able to meet our strategic investment. We are up year on year, but we did not get the huge 'up' we needed to compensate for the World Cup."

Mr Zeghibe added that Maiden would not be put up for sale.

The company said it estimated that it would achieve a first-half operating profit of £4.4 million, down 18 per cent from £5.4 million the previous year. However, it added that it would retain its total dividend for the year and would continue to invest in its markets.

"There is little we can do about the general economic environment in which we operate," Mr Zeghibe said. "However, we have a more flexible cost base than many of our competitors, and the group is structured to produce strong cashflow, even in difficult conditions."



Brian Patterson, chief executive, Wedgwood, left; Redmond O'Donoghue, chief executive, Waterford Crystal; and Richard Barnes, finance director, Waterford Wedgwood, right

## Asian crisis hits Wedgwood

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the fine crystal and china group, has blamed the Asian economic crisis for taking the sparkle out of interim profits.

Tony O'Reilly, chairman, said that the changed market conditions in Asia had affected the luxury branded sector as a whole. However, he added that he felt the company could contain the impact of

those changes because of strong growth at Waterford Crystal, the restructuring of Wedgwood and the acquisition of Rosenthal in Germany.

However, Wedgwood, which has enjoyed growth of about 14 per cent in the Japanese market in recent years, has seen global growth rates flattened to 2.6 per cent.

Waterford Crystal in-

creased total sales by 26 per cent and operating profits by 36 per cent, with sales particularly strong in the US.

In the six months to June 30 the group reported pre-tax profits down 12 per cent at 1r£9 million (£7.6 million) on sales up 47 per cent at 1r£258 million. The interim dividend is 0.4p. Earnings per share are down at 1r1.16p (1r1.2p).

## Siebe in £137m American disposal

BY MARTIN BARROW

SIEBE, the engineering group, took a step towards rebuilding the confidence of investors yesterday with the £136.9 million disposal of its North Safety Products business.

Siebe, whose shares have fallen 40 per cent in just three months since the company issued a disappointing trading statement, is selling North Safety Products to Norcross Safety Products of America.

The business, which manufactures personal safety and life support products for use in industry, earned pre-tax profits of £14.7 million on turnover of £111.3 million in the year to April 4. It employs 2,300 people at locations in North America, Britain and Germany. The disposal will yield a pre-tax profit of £67.2 million, which Siebe will initially use to reduce short-term borrowings.

The disposal is the first tangible move by Allen Yurko, Siebe's chief executive, since the company announced in June that a strategic review had identified a number of businesses for divestment.

Yesterday's deal was greeted with a modest 19p rise in Siebe shares to 229p. However, the shares are at a massive discount to the price of 383p at which they traded in June, before the company admitted that trading had been adversely affected by the financial crisis in Asia.

The warning raised doubts about Siebe's ability to meet its own target for underlying growth of 10 per cent and made the company's 30 per cent premium to the market look absurdly high.

Institutional investors, alarmed at the sudden fall from grace, also questioned Siebe's £404 million takeover of Eurotherm, the process controls business, earlier in the year, a price which some analysts considered to be too high.

Yesterday's disposal accelerates Mr Yurko's plan to convert Siebe into a pure controls group, with products spanning large industrial installations, domestic appliances and pneumatic equipment.

The Siebe board was taken by surprise by the sharp fall in the company's shares and has tried to convince investors its strategy remains sound. In the last financial year its pre-tax profits rose 14.7 per cent to £486.4 million.

## Government orders give Serco a boost

SERCO GROUP, the task management contractor to government and industry, continued to benefit from the extension of private finance projects in the UK, helping to lift pre-tax profits 20 per cent to £12.7 million in the half year to June 30. Contracts awarded during the six months included the construction and operation of the new Joint Services Command and Staff College, in a joint venture with John Laing, and another for the provision of non-clinical facilities management services to a new 633-bed district general hospital for the Law Hospital NHS Trust in Scotland.

Serco also raised a profit of £4.5 million from the sale of its interest in a joint venture formed to manage a fleet of helicopters for the Defence Helicopter Flying School. Turnover rose 17 per cent to £285.6 million. Earnings rose 21 per cent to 13.9p a share. The interim dividend is lifted 15 per cent to 2.3p. The shares rose 40p to £12.32½p yesterday. *Tempus*, page 28

## Photobition buys KDT

SHARES in Photobition rose 20p to 207½p after the photographic and printing services group revealed that it is to buy Katz Digital Technologies (KDT), of New York, for £28 million (£47 million). Katz is a digital graphics business and in the six months to June made pre-tax profits of \$1.9 million on sales of \$22.1 million. KDT provides the same core graphic display skills and services as Photobition's operations in Britain and Australia: design, digital image production, mounting and panel construction.

## Amey profits up 26%

SHARES in Amey, the construction group, rose 70p to 587½p after the construction group revealed a rise in pre-tax profits of 26 per cent to £7.63 million on sales up from £192 million to £218 million. Earnings rose from 12.1p to 18.1p out of which the half-year dividend rises to 4½p (4p). Neil Ashley, the chairman, said: "Trading in the second half is proceeding well in line with our expectations and we see no reason why the group should not continue to perform strongly."

## Ascot jumps 6%

ASCOT, the engineering group, raised pre-tax profits by 6 per cent to £14.1 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings rose 12 per cent to 14.0p out of which the half-year dividend rises from 3.0p to 3.5p. Howard Dyer, chairman, said: "Since the half year, the acquisition of a 30 per cent stake in ChiroTech for £30 million further strengthens the chemical engineering division. We expect further progress in the second half." The shares rose from 215½p to 233½p.

## Roxspur pre-tax falls

ROXSPUR, the electronic equipment group that acquired Claythorne and Serck in April, saw pre-tax profits fall from £2.24 million to £1.7 million in the year to June 30 on sales up to £31.4 million (£26.2 million). Earnings per share fell to 0.01p (0.64p); the final dividend rises to 0.10p (0.05p). Roxspur said: "In recent weeks significant new orders have been secured by Serck and the company now has an order book which already exceeds the previous year's sales." The shares rose 1p to 6½p.

## Photo-Me confident

PHOTO-ME, the business support services group, raised pre-tax profits from £10.3 million to £15.2 million in the year to April 30 on sales up from £159.2 million to £168.7 million. The total dividend rises from 5p to 6.5p out of earnings up from 8.36p to 13.18p. The company said that, after successful investments in research and development, the board views the future with increasing confidence. The company's shares rose from 349p to 371p yesterday.

## Strong showing by Regal

BY DOMINIC WALSH

REGAL Hotel Group yesterday sought to allay fears of a slowdown in the hotel sector as it reported a 69 per cent jump in first-half profits to £7.44 million.

Charles Vere Nicoll, chairman, said: "We have had a good first half and the second half is showing no surprises." Occupancy levels rose from 61.3 per cent to 62 per cent, while the average room rate was 21 per cent better at £41.92 helped by a full contribution from the Country Club hotels acquired from Whitbread in May 1997. The average yield per available room was 23 per cent higher at £26.01.

Mr Vere Nicoll said the yield should be boosted further by a three-year programme to refurbish the 90-strong portfolio. Some £25 million will be spent this year, and the group will soon unveil a new brand name to be rolled out across the chain.

Earnings per share were 1.46p (1.04p). An interim dividend of 0.48p (0.40p) will be paid on October 1.

# Hedge bets over currencies

Brian Birkenhead says there are ways of reducing volatility while still retaining foreign investments

Pension fund managers are having a hard time. The Pensions Act was closely followed by the introduction of the Minimum Funding Requirement (MFR), and the 1997 Budget deprived them of income from reclaiming tax credits on dividends. Mercifully, the Accounting Standards Board recently broke with international consensus and decided not to adopt fully accounting conventions that would have further threatened the status of UK funds. These profound changes have led to much head-scratching, not only by fund managers but also by finance directors worried by the effect that the changes may have on contributions that companies make to ensure that their funds comply with the new rules.

There are other worries. The most fundamental difference between the MFR and the other methods is that the actuary must use the current market value, rather than the present value of the future cashflows, as the basis of valuing the fund's investments. As the stock market goes up and down, short-term volatility will affect the MFR calculation and companies have to correct

deficits within one year if they find themselves 10 per cent underfunded, making cashflow forecasting and financial planning a potential nightmare.

One way to avoid volatility is to match short-term pension liabilities by investments in bonds, and longer-term liabilities by investments in equities. Unfortunately, most UK funds have about half their portfolios in UK equities and another 20 per cent in overseas equity markets, and, on the basis of the "ideal" portfolio, are significantly overinvested in equities.

Neil Record, of Record Treasury Management, advises pension funds on currency management. He says: "The problem in matching equities with long-term liabilities is that the benchmark portfolio assumes a rate of return for equities which does not take account of volatility. The only way to minimise variation in the funding level is to invest 100 per cent in UK government bonds. But for most funds the sacrifice in return would be unacceptable."

Equities have outperformed bonds 75 per cent of the time since 1918, and pension funds are not going to sacrifice returns by moving substantially



Some form of hedging helps, says Brian Birkenhead

into bonds. So pension funds have to seek other ways to reduce short-term volatility.

About 20 per cent of total assets of UK pension funds are invested overseas. The finance director will talk to the fund manager about that. Not only do pension funds expose themselves to market fluctuations, as with UK equity investment, but they also face currency risks. Funds may be tempted

to liquidate overseas investments so as not to add currency risks to those already taken in trying to meet the MFR rules. However, there are ways to cut volatility while still retaining foreign investments.

In the ten years to 1996 returns on overseas bonds and equities have been similar to UK investment — if they were hedged. The percentages are: UK bonds 11, global bonds un-

hedged 7.7, global bonds hedged 11.7, UK equities 14.2, global equities unhedged 9.2, global equities hedged 13.

Moreover, volatility of the hedged portfolio was similar to UK volatility, whereas volatility of the unhedged portfolio was markedly greater. Some form of hedging clearly helps.

Currency overlay is the name for separate management of currency exposures related to overseas equities or bonds. Currencies are probably a zero sum game but only over a much longer horizon than any investor, even a pension fund, can live with.

The essence of the dynamic currency overlay approach is that you do not try to forecast currency movements. Currency markets are notoriously hard to predict. The principle of systematic dynamic hedging is to keep a variable hedge that increases as the foreign currency falls in value, and decreases when the base currency is weak.

Being responsive, and not predictive, it rarely captures the full extent of an exchange move, but this is not necessary to cut volatility substantially and to keep negative cashflows at manageable levels.

□ Brian Birkenhead is deputy chairman of The 100 Group of Finance Directors.

□ Record Treasury Management (01753 852222) can give information on overlay.

## Song with sting in the wording

THE rock star Sting doesn't like accountants. He has even been known to alter his songs to get in a gibe. It is not uncommon, apparently, for one line in *Every Breath You Take* to be sung as "every accountant's mistake". But then he was taken to the cleaners to the tune of £6 million by one Keith Moore, of the firm of Moore Sloane. The full story is now told in extraordinary and entertaining detail in *Sting — Demolition Man* by Christo-

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

pher Sandford (Little, Brown: £16.99). Moore, who ended up in Wandsworth jail, began by forming a company structure similar to "a hard-nosed multinational", but went on to use Sting's cash to fund other ventures, including one involving Russian military aircraft. When the accountancy firm was dissolved in 1992, it owed £9 million and had assets of £650,000. It rather spoils Sting's breakfast. "Someone has pinched six million quid

off us," he is quoted as telling his wife over the marmalade.

### Stress test

ACCOUNTANTS are generally laid back about business matters but near to hysteria when it comes to their personal lives. Or so a surprise question in a survey on attitudes to the Alternative Investment Market suggests. Pannell Kerr Forster asked directors of AIM-listed companies which was the most stressful out-

standing a business, divorce, moving house or joining AIM. Of those surveyed 52 per cent rated divorce most stressful, while 43 per cent saw joining AIM as least stressful. This tells us two things. Advisers to AIM applicants are adept at keeping things steady. And accountants have a terrible time in the divorce courts.

### Shires' chance

WE CAN all expect a flood of stories about accountants do-

ing useful things in far-flung parts of England and Wales. Ever mindful of criticism that it takes notice only of London-based thinking, the English ICA has appointed three regional press officers to raise the profession's profile beyond the City. So be wary of news about accountants in Derby, St Helens and Farnham in particular. Those are the home towns of the trio. It cannot be long, however, before they get out and about. Rural accountants should start honing their anecdotes now.

ROBERT BRUCE

# Time to hear wisdom after summer farce

AS THE profession arrives back from its short summer break, accountants might hope that the chaotic squabbles over who has voted for what in the great merger saga had been sorted out. Sadly they have not. We are coming to the end of the ten-week period that the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) set in its audacious strategy of ignoring the professional bodies concerned while sending merger plans to their members. Both the management accounting body, the CIMA, and the public sector body, the CIPFA, are still bristling at this.

Of the eligible 120,000 members of the three bodies involved, only 20,000 have sent votes back to the ACCA. And there is great dispute about what all the figures mean.

For a start, the two bodies that felt affronted have either undertaken, or are about to undertake, such a process. The CIMA has closed its period of canvassing its members. It found that 16,000 responded, which represents a third of the membership, and that 85 per cent of them were opposed to the ACCA plan. Now the CIPFA is to undertake a similar exercise in asking its membership what it thinks.

The ACCA has found that of the disappointingly small percentage of members responding to its initiative, those from the CIPFA were the most enthusiastic, followed by its own members and, finally, CIMA members.

However, the ACCA strategy has achieved more than just get up the noses of an astonishing number of accountants. It has at least put the

issue back on the agenda. Even the CIMA, after an acrimonious exchange of letters with the ACCA, agrees that some sort of talks are required. In closing its voting process, its president, Peter Layne, said: "We can now return to business as usual and, at the same time, begin to develop an alternative path to an effective restructuring of the profession."

What we need at this time are wise words. And they have come from Margaret Pratt, CIPFA president. "Squabbles undermine the profession's credibility," she declared last week in her institute magazine. "Rivalry between the accountancy institutes has created a climate of mistrust, tension and unhealthy competition. Yet the purpose of them all is to serve the public interest. It is why such institutes as CIPFA exist, with obligations enshrined in their charters." She adds a very im-

portant point, saying: "CIPFA has, I think, members with a particularly strong focus and understanding of the public interest."

There is also another difference. She suggests that restructuring of the profession is highly desirable, but she also makes clear that the ACCA plan would be unworkable. The CIPFA, she said, "would seek a democratic and participative governance structure". Compare that with what the ACCA line is at the outset. "Negotiations will involve give-and-take and compromises by all parties," it said, "including ACCA." However, its document qualified this, adding: "Having said that, ACCA's council has deliberately adopted an approach which is similar to that adopted in company mergers and takeovers."

Margaret Pratt's words are carefully chosen. The ACCA has been riven by disputes between its council and its members in recent years over democracy and council elections. However, she points out that "CIPFA members' participation rates are much higher than those of other institutes, including voting turnout at annual council elections".

The CIPFA is claiming the moral high ground here. It needs a merger. Demographics and career patterns and the effect on finances dictate that. However, the CIPFA has always been a body of great integrity. It intends to keep that and to take that culture into whatever solution to restructuring of the accountancy profession can be found. "Margaret's article," said David Adams, CIPFA chief executive, "aims to rescue the cause of rationalisation from the unhappy farce that has developed."

We are now into a process of saving face. The ACCA proposals have cost it a fortune. They have been planned for months and have involved Websites, brochures and mailing costs. They have been marketed to their own and other bodies' members in aggressive fashion. The difficulty will be for the ACCA leadership to accept that they have achieved part of the goal. The concept of a merger involving the three bodies is now firmly on the agenda. However, they have not succeeded, if they ever thought they would, in carrying off a clean sweep.

The possibility of restructuring is now in all three bodies' grasp, but it is going to take a great deal of humble pie. Margaret Pratt's words should set the tone.



ROBERT BRUCE

سكزا من الأصل



Best levels lost

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing various alcoholic beverage stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

BANKS

Table listing various bank stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing various brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table listing various diversified industrial stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing various electricity stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing various electronic and electrical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

CHEMICALS

Table listing various chemical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

High Low Company Price % High Low Company Price %

Table listing various stocks in the 150-255 price range with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table listing various engineering and vehicle stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing various food manufacturer stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing various healthcare stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Table listing various household goods and textile stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

ENGINEERING

Table listing various engineering stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing various construction stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing various leisure and hotel stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, and % change.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing various short-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, and % change.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing various long-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, and % change.

UNLISTED

Table listing various unlisted stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, and % change.

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing various medium-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, and % change.

MEDIA

Table listing various media stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing various pharmaceutical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

PRINTING & PAPER

Table listing various printing and paper stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

MINING

Table listing various mining stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

PROPERTY

Table listing various property stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing various telecommunications stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

TRANSPORT

Table listing various transport stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

WATER

Table listing various water stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing various food retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing various general retailers with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing various alternative investment market stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing various distributor stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation at 5%)

Table listing various index-linked stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, and % change.

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Table listing various index-linked stocks with columns for High, Low, Stock, Price, and % change.



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Table listing various other financial stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing various telecommunications stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, and % change.

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WATER

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RETAILERS, FOOD

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FILM  
Life in the fast lane: The Last Days of Disco  
THIS PAGE

# THE TIMES ARTS

OPERA  
Hostilities resume at Covent Garden  
PAGE 37



## All quiet on Wessex front

**NEW MOVIES:** Fine performances from several talented young actresses cannot lift *The Land Girls* out of the 'worthy' category of British film, says Geoff Brown

So much popular cinema expends much energy trying to be up to date that the antiquarian bent of *The Land Girls* takes you by surprise. The clock turns back to England in 1941. But there are no aerial bombardments; the scene is a Dorset farm, where the daily round consists of milking cows, ploughing, catching rats and acting rustic.

- The Land Girls**  
Warner West End, 12.  
111 mins  
Girls muck out in Second World War
- The Last Days of Disco**  
Warner West End, 15.  
112 mins  
Motormouths at a disco club
- He Got Game**  
Virgin Trocadero, 18, 134 mins  
Spike Lee plays basketball
- Species II**  
Plaza, 18, 93 mins  
Unwelcome and gloopy horror sequel
- Hands**  
Renoir, PG, 129 mins  
Testing Russian film about society's outcasts

Lloyd's saucy teenager in *Wish You Were Here*. The young actresses buckle down to the cows, mud and clichés with fetching gusto. Other cast members — Steven Mackintosh as Joe, Tom Georgeson as the farmer with a soft heart lurking beneath a thick crust — do not disappoint.

ing characters do? They talk. They debate the characteristics of the yuppie class. They analyse themselves, each other and their relationships; and continue yapping in the loo, on the sidewalk, or hanging on a strap on the subway.

But at least the fish in Stillman's aquarium are fascinating to watch. Kate Beckinsale is marvellous as Charlotte, a bitchy man-hunter, newly graduated from college, just installed in the city as a publishers' assistant. "We're in complete control," she tells her chum Alice as they survey the disco crowd. "There are a lot of choices down there."

Only the material does. If Leland had abandoned his rose-tinted specs, insights could have been gained into the privations and social jostling brought by the war. But it was not to be. The girls' experiences look trite and irrelevant; and good talent lies trapped in a film with all the flavour of processed cheese.



Balancing act: Anna Friel, Catherine McCormack and Rachel Weisz swap style for stile in David Leland's *The Land Girls*

about to graduate from high school. The speechifying of *Get on the Bus* is gone. Instead, Lee uses family drama and satire to blow the trumpet for positive thinking and forgiveness. Say yes to basketball, this film says; say no to drugs and ghetto violence.

Denzel Washington plays the erring father given a week's leave from prison to persuade his son to sign up with the state Governor's alma mater. This is not the strongest of plot points, though it does allow Lee to probe family conflicts and make pointed fun of the hype and greed that comes wrapped up with the American sport.

Not that comedy dominates: you only have to listen to the soundtrack to realise how serious, even pretentious, Lee is. Lesser-known music by Aaron Copland, folksy and proudly American, is pressed into service to accompany shots of basketballs propelled into hoops or tender talks with a bruised prostitute (Milla Jovovich). Editing and camerawork follow Lee's usual fondness for bumpy trickery.

The artifice stops, though, with Ray Allen, a real basketball superstar who gives an unaffected performance as the son, Jesus Shuttlesworth by name, unsure which way to turn in life. *He Got Game* may be gauche, but at least it's a film with a heartbeat.

Ben Gazzara Felicity Huffman Ricky Jay Steve Martin Rebecca Pidgeon Campbell Scott

**"Clever, continually intriguing, and great fun."**  
PREMIERE - *Quentin Mathieu*

**"A sly, delightful, brilliantly constructed con game."**  
DAILY TELEGRAPH - *David Greig*

**"David Mamet, writer and director of this splendidly tricky film noir, takes Hitchcock as his model and goes one (or two) better."**  
EVENING STANDARD - *Alexander Walker*

**"Mesmerising."** DAILY EXPRESS - *Johan Salemons*

## The Spanish Prisoner

A David Mamet Film

WARNER VILLAGE ODEON ODEON REX ODEON PHOENIX FROM FRIDAY

AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

may be gauche, but at least it's a film with a heartbeat. You know something must be gruesome if even Michael Madsen, the ear slicer from *Reservoir Dogs*, flinches at the gore laid before him. This happens in *Species II*, an unwellcome and dishevelled sequel to the horror hit of 1995. A worn astronaut, back from America's first flight to Mars, gives birth through the chest to a horrid heap of tentacles and glop. But there is worse for Madsen to witness: the makers never know when to stop with the prosthetic nightmares, the exploding heads, and the disgusting cocoons.

They also never know when to turn off the plot. Elements of the original film jostle with the adventures of astronaut Patrick (Justin Lazard), a senator's son, whose status as American hero receives a setback when he is taken over by the alien infestation carried back from Mars. And don't forget Natasha Henstridge's Eve, benign offspring of the *Species* alien, yoked into service to round up this latest threat to American life and limb.

At one point she helps track the prey through telepathy: "Aisle one, fruits and vegetables." Eve advises as Patrick reaches a supermarket. You have to laugh, or cry with despair. Peter Medak directed. The most bizarre film of the week is *Hands*, a particularly testing Russian item which documents in poetic black-and-white the lives of society's outcasts — beggars, drunks, amputees — in Kishinev, capital of Soviet Moldavia. In pioneering days, Soviet cinema was renowned for creative editing; but Artur Aristakysian, a maverick soul, prefers to woo audiences with endlessly roving camerawork and no dialogue other than a father's commentary to his unborn son.

**'Fine for over-40s'**  
Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**LAND GIRLS**  
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: A pleasant enough Second World War drama. Perhaps more suited to the 40-plus age range but I admit I did shed a tear or two.  
Carl Clark, 19: I wanted more to happen — it moved at such a slow pace. Not really a bloke's movie.  
Charlotte Dailey, 19: A gentle film that tells us of the lives of three women in the Second World War. Strong performances all round.  
Alison Juliard, 20: Not particularly deep but certainly enjoyable. I shall be taking my Gran at the weekend.

**LAST DAYS OF DISCO**  
Leslie: Damn funny. Director Whit Stillman has made a top-quality film that pulses with in-

**SNAP VERDICT**

intelligence. You need to be awake for this one.  
Carl: You don't see too many of these. A carefully and beautifully made comedy.  
Charlotte: Really well-written and as satisfying as a really good episode of *Friends*.  
Alison: British actress Kate Beckinsale's American accent was flawless. She was as American as apple pie.

**SPECIES II**  
Leslie: By no means a classic but it achieved its aim. It scared me stupid.  
Carl: Even worse than the first *Species*. I couldn't wait to leave the cinema.  
Charlotte: Horrible. I hid behind my hands.  
Alison: Really disturbing. I shan't watch this movie again.

**"THIS REALLY IS A WONDERFUL LOVE STORY"**  
— Baz Bamigboye, *The Daily Mail*

**"HOLLYWOOD CINEMA AT ITS INTELLIGENT, COMPASSIONATE BEST"**  
— *Newsweek*

ROBERT REDFORD KRISTIN SCOTT THOMAS  
A ROBERT REDFORD FILM

## THE HORSE WHISPERER

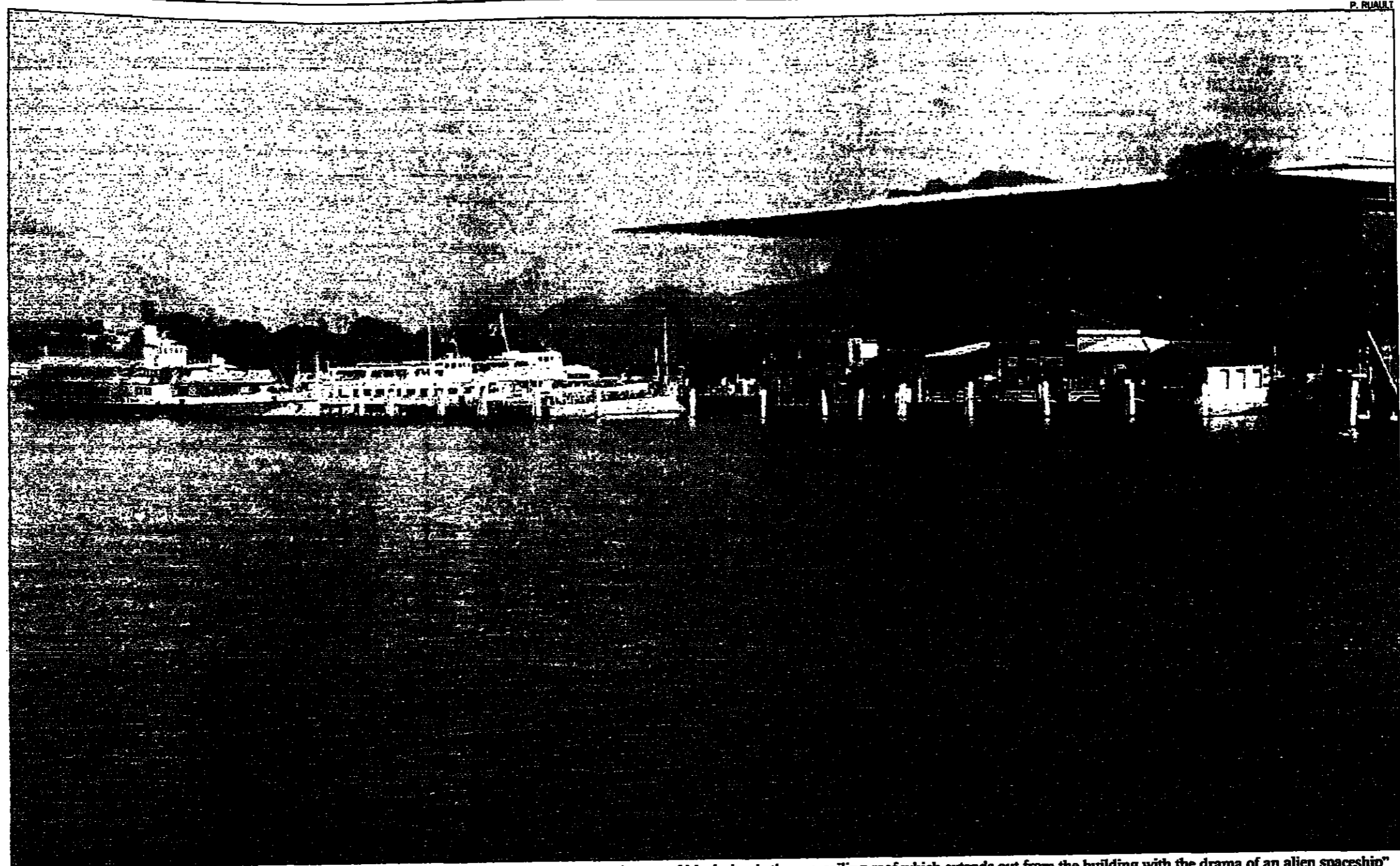
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ARCHITECTURE: The French architect Jean Nouvel has built one of the world's great music venues. Marcus Binney reports



Jean Nouvel's £85 million concert hall, nesting on the shores of Lake Lucerne. "The great feature of his design is the oversailing roof which extends out from the building with the drama of an alien spaceship"

# The concert hall from outer space

Lucerne's new concert hall is a building to be compared with the acclaimed Guggenheim in Bilbao. On the edge of the lake, Jean Nouvel, the star of French architecture, has produced a mesmerising building of commanding presence that changes its whole character as dusk comes. In contrast to the cool whites and greys fashionable the world over, Nouvel uses deep, lustrous colour both outside and in: burgundy reds, midnight blues and bottle greens.

The great feature of his design is the oversailing roof, which extends out from the building with the drama of the alien spaceship arriving over America in the film *Independence Day*. On the two sides overlooking the lake it projects 30 metres; at the dagger-like corner the distance is a full 45 metres. To achieve the projection, Nouvel uses the techniques of bridge construction, but he adds: "Forget technology, I am not trying to reveal or express structure."

True, the building does not rival the sculptural curves of Frank Gehry's Guggenheim or the Sydney Opera House, but it has a powerful Cubist quality of interlocking geometric shapes, with smooth surfaces dramatically contrasted with the cages of the escape stairs and whole walls of metal grillage. This is the architecture of the three-dimensional collage.

Nouvel demonstrates a mastery in bedding down an adventurous building into a beautiful setting, avoiding any jarring note on the lakeshore and doing honour to the many older buildings along it by providing ravishing views of them at every level. He and his impressive project architect, Brigitte Menra, describe this as a process of inclusion.

The £85 million project is the more amazing for being largely a voluntary enterprise growing out of Lucerne's well-established summer music festival. Nouvel won the competition to design a new concert hall (with conference hall and a new museum attached) in 1988 with a spectacular proposal to build out into the lake. To his grief, and the outrage of many local citizens, the commission was awarded instead to a Swiss architect who had been placed third. But the project faltered and when it was revived the promoters went back to Nouvel.

By this time, it was evident that building in the lake was not acceptable, so Nouvel decided that "if I cannot go to the water, the water will come to me". Each time you pass from one part of his building to another you cross a canal, while in front a large basin of water provides magical reflections at night.

Though monumental in scale, the concert hall is invitingly informal, with a long bar spilling out over the pavement. It sits happily with the flotilla of boats, old-fashioned and modern, moored in front, and makes a delightful counterpoint to the rustic wooden rowing club jutting out into the lake in front, which, sadly, the city wants to remove.

**"EFFORTLESSLY COOL.**  
You'd have to be dead not to enjoy it!"  
— *Entertainment Weekly*

"Delicious! Astutely observed and very witty"  
— *Rolling Stone*

"Sharp, sophisticated, clever and charming. See this gem!"  
— *Chicago Sun-Times*

**Whit Stillman's The Last Days of DISCO**  
History is made at night.

FROM TOMORROW

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END • ODEON WEST END • ODEON BRISTOL • ODEON CARDIFF • ODEON EDINBURGH • ODEON GLASGOW • ODEON MANCHESTER • ODEON NEWCASTLE • ODEON NOTTINGHAM • ODEON SHEFFIELD

**"I LAUGHED and CRIED at this movie... deeply touching"**  
— *Rolling Stone*

**"full of PASSION, EXHILARATION and TRAGEDY"**  
— *Entertainment Weekly*

**"It grew out of Lucerne's summer music festival"**

glass is used at ground level, higher up Nouvel introduces huge picture windows, some vertical, some horizontal, filled with large sheets of frameless glass. He has also had the nice idea of engraving the names of the sponsors (who are legion) on the glass.

The final flight leading to the top level narrows, making the vast extent of the outdoor terrace a breathtaking surprise. Thanks to the huge overhang of the roof you can be cool on a hot day or sheltered from a heavy downpour. The underside of the roof reads as white during the day, picking up the reflections of the constantly moving water on the lake. As night falls, it turns mysteriously to black. The most exciting moment is at dusk when the foyers and terrace are thronged with concertgoers who become a spectacle in themselves. There is no external floodlighting. Instead the building glows from within, lit by a firmament of pinprick lights with the occasional glimpse of a glass lift whistling up or down.

The concert hall within is of shoebox proportions, the form preferred by the American acoustician Russell Johnson of Artec, who earlier worked on Birmingham's acclaimed Symphony Hall. He believes that the shoebox form of 19th-century halls such as the Musikvereinsaal in Vienna and the Tonhalle in Zurich are among the world's best.

Nouvel explains: "The hall has to provide an outstanding acoustic for many different kinds of music, ranging from Gregorian chant to Beethoven and Berlioz." To achieve the necessary variations, the hall is of cathedral loftiness, surrounded by four tiers of balconies. As in Birmingham, a large suspended wooden canopy can be raised or lowered to provide the perfect pitch for Mozart or Haydn. The walls are lined with 24,000 perforated tiles (of five patterns) and achieve the maximum diffusion of sound. These are placed on bowed doors which can be opened to reveal a soaring reverberance chamber on either side of the auditorium, which allows reverberation times to be increased without damaging the clarity of the sound.

Typically, Nouvel has made the chamber a glowing blood red cave, crossed by the gangways leading to the balconies. On either side are velvet curtains that can be run up on wires to increase absorption.

Nouvel originally conceived a richly coloured auditorium becoming "deep, deep blue" towards the back of the hall. Conductors had misgivings about the darkness of the colour and when the white plaster tiles were in place, Nouvel decided he liked the white so much he would keep it. "My opera house at Lyons is all black so I have designed the two extremes," laughs Nouvel.

The overall level of lighting is soft. "Like candlelight," says Nouvel, but drama was provided by a rush of sudden waves of brighter light rippling through the auditorium.

Nouvel may be a star but he has had to fight for every commission: "I am the world champion of bowed doors which can be opened to reveal a soaring reverberance chamber on either side of the auditorium, which allows reverberation times to be increased without damaging the clarity of the sound."

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— *Entertainment Weekly*

**"It grew out of Lucerne's summer music festival"**

**The Land Girls**

Catherine McCormack Rachel Weisz Anna Friel and Steven Muckintosh

STARTS TOMORROW

WARNER WEST END • VIRGIN HAYMARKET • VIRGIN FULHAM • ODEON BRISTOL • ODEON CARDIFF • ODEON EDINBURGH • ODEON GLASGOW • ODEON MANCHESTER • ODEON NEWCASTLE • ODEON NOTTINGHAM • ODEON SHEFFIELD

## One year later

I shall be wearing earmuffs while you read this, hopefully proof against the mass groan-in that is likely to accompany any more words on the subject of Diana, Princess of Wales. But desist a moment, for this afterthought has repercussions far beyond a single anniversary. What, I would like to know, was the BBC's considered judgment about this overblown event?

### RADIO

our best protection against such uniformity. But they are no defence against uncertainty.

Early in the Diana fest, on Sunday, a most interesting interview was carried on Radio 5 Live. A reporter positioned outside Kensington Palace spoke to a man who had come to pay homage. This man said he was embarrassed by the small number of people present. He had been there the previous day and found almost no one there. So he had returned on Sunday and still found fewer people than he expected.

I thought this interview was by far the most revealing of the weekend. It seemed to support what I have long suspected, that the response to Diana's death was only held together by its mass.

Yet I did not hear that interview again. It appears to have been dropped. Within a couple of hours, news bulletins were beginning, in Tom Wolfe's phrase, to identify the correct emotion, albeit at first with a distinct lack of confidence. One bulletin began with the absurdly imprecise word "many", as in: Many people have been marking the anniversary. How many is many?

At lunchtime on Sunday, *The World This Weekend* (Radio 4) showed itself to be much bolder, but no more precise: Thousands of people had been marking the anniversary. This sounded impressive, until you took account of the fact that the thousands constituted a nationwide count, in a country of 56 million people.

John Birt was one of the originators of the famed mission to explain which he saw, and presumably still sees, as the BBC's principal news role. BBC Radio at the weekend signally failed to explain to me whether this anniversary actually meant anything to most people in this country.

PETER BARNARD

LISTINGS Barenboim at the Proms

RECOMMENDED TODAY Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON BBC PROMS: The Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Claudio Abbado gives the first of its two Proms performances tonight with a major new work by Harrison Birtwistle followed by Mahler's gargantuan Fifth Symphony.



Diana Rigg gets to grips with Racine's Phedre

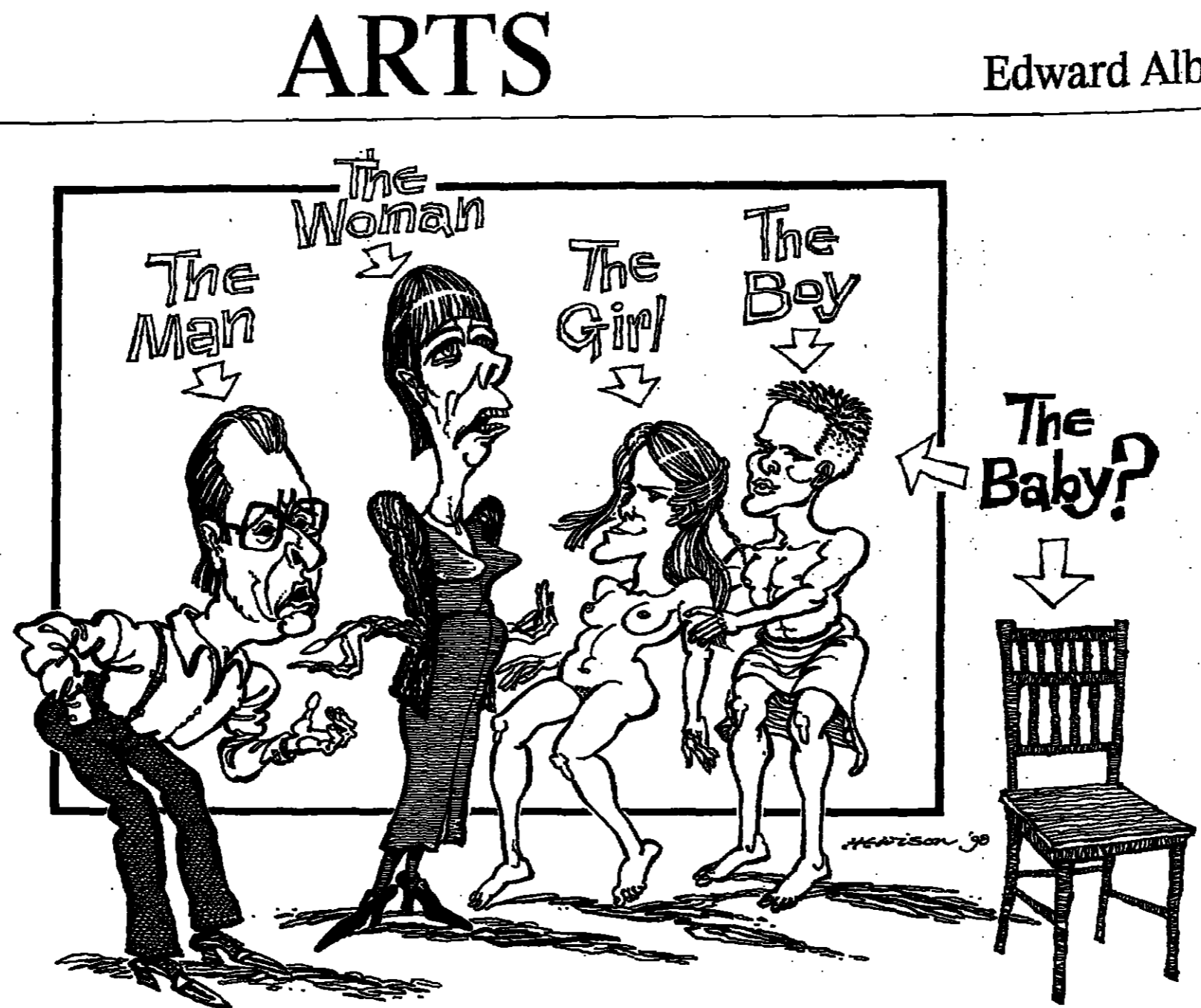
LA BOMBE: The British Youth Opera arrives at the South Bank with the first of three fully staged performances of Puccini's tragedy, Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4922). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London House full, returns only. Some seats available. Seats at all prices.

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG): Increasingly famous adaptation of Nicholas Evans's best-seller about a healer of damaged horses and a smart New Yorker.



More new families: Alan Howard, Frances de la Tour, Zoe Waites and Rupert Penry-Jones in Edward Albee's The Play About the Baby

So who wants children?

Somewhere in the American academic jungle a PhD student is probably writing a thesis with the sort of smart-arse title fashionable these days: "Death Rattles in the Cradle: the semiotics of infancy in the work of Edward Albee".

Well, there are lively moments, and not just when Zoe Waites's Girl and Rupert Penry-Jones's Boy guilelessly strip naked and gleefully chase each other across the stage.

that PhD thesis banging along. But my own feeling is that Man and Woman represent the coming of age and disillusionment. They "take away" the baby in the sense of ruining a young couple's innocent self-belief and make them see that their darling kid might as well be an empty shawl.

Loss and the need to fill the void has been one of the most prevalent dramatic themes in the Fringe's quality drama programme. Almost a year to the day after a global show of mourning, it seems all the more poignant.

Three Tall Women: he was the adopted son of a cold, rejecting mother. And now there will have to be a new chapter. Albee's The Play About the Baby, currently getting its world premiere (sponsored by AT&T) at the Almeida, involves a sweet, if callow, young couple who have just had a child.

Yellow Rabbits Death in New Orleans (Traverse), which finds Calgary anthropologist Brenda inheriting her dead lover's house in America's woodoo capital. She and her team of feckless sidekicks uproot themselves without thinking, each in their own way desperately seeking something. But some kind of spiritual cure-all is as elusive as ever.

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THE LADY BOYS OF BANGKOK SPECTACULAR DANCE ROUTINES INTERLACED WITH COMEDY

OPERA A Night Royal mes OPERA: Rodney Milnes Dump suits, S the sh West Coast

THEATRE  
A right Royal mess

OPERA: Rodney Milnes argues that the Royal Opera's fine performing standards deserve better management. Plus (right) Mid Wales Opera reviewed

ARTS

PROMS

Los Angeles triumph

# Dump the suits, save the show

There are two Royal Operas. There's the Royal Opera proper: an orchestra, chorus, soloists and stage staff who put on shows. And there's the Royal Opera improper — its management. During the two-year period of homelessness, and especially over the past six months, we have almost lost sight of the former, while the latter has held centre stage under a pitiless spotlight of communal hostility, much of it well deserved. If this separation is not recognised, there is a real danger of both, not just the improper half, going to the wall.

The importance of the RO's residency at the Edinburgh Festival cannot be overstressed. Here was the company, once more under the leadership of one of the world's most respected musicians, Bernard Haitink, giving outstanding performances, and it was not just this old chauvinist who made comparisons between the RO's *Don Carlos* and the dim show simultaneously being performed in Salzburg. The company has also been playing *Peter Grimes* and *Masnadieri* in Finland, where audiences said they had never before heard orchestral playing and choral singing of such high standard.

Nor is that all. In the darkest initial period of homelessness, plans for which were so unhelpfully described by the then Arts Council chairman, Lord Gower, as a shambles — a bit rich coming from the man whose responsibility it was to ensure that they weren't — the company managed to stage two award-winning productions of superb quality: Britten's *Paul Bunyan* and *The Turn of the Screw*.

There's nothing wrong with the Royal Opera proper. In a country less shy of its achievements it would be regarded as a jewel in the crown, a pearl beyond price. The only problem is that its work needs to be seen, as its one-time chief executive Genista McIntosh put it, by more people, and perhaps by different people. She didn't last long.

No need to re-rehearse the tortured, tortuous management changes over the past three years. It is enough to say that it is the cack-handed PR handling of McIntosh's departure that led directly first to the Kaufman committee hearings, then to the Eyre report. Together they made public truths that the ROH's supporters knew well but

had tactfully kept quiet about. The previous Government's policy had led to cuts in public funding, and to steep rises in seat prices, well above those of comparable European capitals — and hence to a comparative limitation of audiences. The corporate supporters filled the expensive seats, the hardcore fans the cheap ones, and the general public whom subsidy is supposed to benefit hardly got a look in. This is the only approach that can justifiably be aimed at the old Sainsbury-Sirling-Isaacs regimes, though it's hard to know what else they could have done.

So here was the anomaly: what seemed like a huge subsidy, but was in fact between a third and half of what comparable European houses receive, going to pay for the pleasures of the rich and the fanatical. It's an image that commentators and the public at large have seized upon and will not let go.

At the same time both Kaufman and Eyre criticised the relationship between the ROH and the Arts Council of England, always tricky and never more so than when the same people seemed to be on both sides of the table. In general the ACE was accused of being too soft on the ROH, and the ROH of arrogantly considering itself a special case, always ready to appeal over the ACE's head to whomsoever it could noble in the corridors of power. Further odium.

In that context, the recent leak of its appeal directly to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, for a doubling of subsidy to run the new theatre was a public relations disaster of epic proportions, arousing further hostility in all quarters, even basically sympathetic ones. The fact that it was a perfectly reasonable request is irrelevant. The management has now talked itself into a situation where it is going to be virtually impossible for anyone to fund it at all, let alone adequately, and we may find ourselves in a year's time with a wonderful new building and absolutely nothing to put in it.

Most worrying of all is the attitude of the rump of the ACE, worried (quite rightly) about its own future and stung by criticisms of its previous softness. It is now playing tough, privately suggesting to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra that it keep itself "free" from the end of next year, with the obvious implication that it will be forced into a relationship with the ROH similar to that of the London Philharmonic with Glyndebourne. Exit the ROH Orchestra, built up over half a century into a world-class instrument, exit Haitink, exit the Royal Opera as we know it. All for what on paper looks like a neat economy but would save nothing.

What is to be done? For a start, the nonentities surviving at the

## 'Covent Garden has gone from PR disaster to disaster'

Smith, recently described by Ken Livingstone with delicious malevolence as "a good socialist", understandably wants to keep a low profile. But he has to recognise a political dimension. The Royal Opera proper is a Good Thing. It deserves to be seen and appreciated by the public. But there is no magic wand rendering London different from any other European capital — opera has to be paid for.

No one (well, not I, for one) is going to put up with the old "mixed-economy" structure in the new ROH, an us-and-them division of audiences. Public opinion will no longer tolerate subsidising the few. With careful planning Smith could engineer a massive PR coup in giving the Royal Opera back to the people of this country — if, by this time next year, there is anything left to give. Will he?



An award-winning staging mounted by the Royal Opera while "in exile": Joan Rodgers and Edward Burrows in *The Turn of the Screw*

ACE need their knuckles rapped, for contemplating what can only be seen as an act of petty muscle-flexing spite. As the ROH management lurches from one PR disaster to the next there surely has to be a clear-out. A chain of management stretching back to Lord Chiddingfold has to be broken if any degree of public confidence is to be restored.

But who is to do it? Poor Chris

Smith, recently described by Ken Livingstone with delicious malevolence as "a good socialist", understandably wants to keep a low profile. But he has to recognise a political dimension. The Royal Opera proper is a Good Thing. It deserves to be seen and appreciated by the public. But there is no magic wand rendering London different from any other European capital — opera has to be paid for.

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As Tamino and Pamina, Dedan Kelly and Alla Kravchuk look and behave like naive teenagers but, with the aid of costume changes, grow up in the course of the action. Michael Gunney's Monostatos, plainly terrified of sex, is extremely funny, and Keel Watson's genial Papageno risks moments of Beckett-like despair and carries them off triumphantly. The excellent Turkish conductor Cem Mansur drew spirited playing from the Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra.

*Turandot* is a tougher nut for young players, and Keith Darlington wisely led his charges with care rather than abandon, though he let good, raucous stage brass off the leash to spectacular effect. Much was made of not playing Alfano's ending; the performance ended at Liu's death, followed by about 20 seconds of stunned silence. Quite right too: this opera, conceived at the start of our troubled century, still shows no sign of ending as that century draws nervously to a close. But it does rather make Liu the protagonist — and Susan Gritton sang the role with heartbreaking eloquence, which is tough on the *Turandot*: Elizabeth Byrne has the stamata and the steele tone, and could make the words work harder for her. Geraint Dodd was a musical, tireless Calaf, and delivered an absolutely spiffing optional top C — well, if you've got it, flaunt it.

Within properly severe designs by Conor Murphy the producer Stephen Medcalf made full use of the theatre's aisles and balconies. It was all highly aud, highly involving, which is what MWO audiences have come to expect.

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Within properly severe designs by Conor Murphy the producer Stephen Medcalf made full use of the theatre's aisles and balconies. It was all highly aud, highly involving, which is what MWO audiences have come to expect.

## Weaving Welsh magic

If Mid Wales Opera looks comparatively healthy while so much of the operatic world teeters on a knife edge, it could have something to do with supply and demand, Rodney Milnes writes. Over ten years the company has built up a warm relationship with audiences; its ten-day seasons in the admittedly small (500 seats) Theatr Hafren are always sold out, and its Welsh tours well supported. This year it has been given money by the English Arts Council to extend its tour of a new *Magic Flute* across the border, a nice vote of confidence, and its new *Turandot* will play at the North Wales Theatr in Llandudno on Sunday.

Given the variety of touring venues, Christopher Newell's *Flute* production is simple to a thoroughly virtuous fault: John Wallbank's set is a series of moving panels, with Rosa Diaz's dizzy costumes — the Queen's Ladies are Mae West in triplicate — doing the work. There

## Magic Flute/Turandot Newtown, Powys

is one novelty: Stephen Chance's translation of the dialogue into iambic pentameters, which helps the sense of narrative to end.

As Tamino and Pamina, Dedan Kelly and Alla Kravchuk look and behave like naive teenagers but, with the aid of costume changes, grow up in the course of the action. Michael Gunney's Monostatos, plainly terrified of sex, is extremely funny, and Keel Watson's genial Papageno risks moments of Beckett-like despair and carries them off triumphantly. The excellent Turkish conductor Cem Mansur drew spirited playing from the Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra.

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## West Coast dazzlers

I must be careful what I say. The John Adams work receiving its London premiere on Tuesday night owes its inspiration, in part, to the late Nicolas Slonimsky and his *Lexicon of Musical Invention* — a catalogue of colourful critical misjudgments throughout the ages. But it is another tome of Slon-



Esa-Pekka Salonen: captured the dark Sibelius undertow

## PROMS

insky's — the *Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns* — that Adams filled for Slonimsky's *Earbax*.

A number of those exotic scales find their way into the work written for large orchestra, and a dazzling showpiece for the second concert of the visiting Los Angeles Philharmonic under Esa-Pekka Salonen. This is much more of a public display piece than Adams's recent folksy *Gnarly Buttons* heard earlier in the Proms, but in spite of its exuberant drive, it lacks the visceral impact of a work like *Harmontelehre*. It is a score which features wit, energy and joie de vivre in abundance, and Salonen and his orchestra proved faithful advocates. I fear that after a single hearing I was left with the impression of more surface than substance, but I will say no more lest my idiosyncratic judgment be recorded for posterity by some latterday Slonimsky.

From teasing economy of detail to the superb economy of Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer*.

Here a trill on a clarinet or a ripple on a harp conjures a world of meaning, and Salonen drew an exquisitely nuanced account from his players. The mezzo soloist, Lorraine Hunt, responded with immaculately weighted lines which, especially in the poignant first and last songs, made the wayfarer's lovesick grief well-nigh unbearable.

The second half was occupied by the *Four Lemminkäinen Legends* of Salonen's compatriot Sibelius, and very welcome too was the opportunity to hear the celebrated *Swan of Tuonela* in context (it forms the third of the legends). If the ostinati of the first and last movements were Mahlerian economy

also in Sibelius's characteristically fluttering flutes or the plangent cor anglais solo of the swan. But there was passion as well, rising in the first legend, *Lemminkäinen and the Maidens of Saari* — in which the hero elopes with his lover on a sleigh — to a frenzy worthy of Tchaikovsky (teaching the end of his life as Sibelius was launching his career, but still a potently influential force). Ultimately this is quintessential Sibelius, however, and Salonen perfectly captured the dark, brooding undertow that was to colour the great symphonic cycle in the years to come.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Finns muted in requiem

Hardly an orchestral showpiece, *Ein deutsches Requiem* is not the kind of work in which such a virtuoso band as the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra might have been expected to debut at the Edinburgh Festival.

True, much of the dusky atmosphere in Brahms's humanitarian masterpiece depends on the orchestral contribution, but usually it is the chorus that makes the biggest impression. Here there was another focal point altogether: the casting of Karita Mattila and Bryn Terfel as soloists made this the starriest of performances, and almost inevitably they stole the show.

It goes without saying that the orchestra, which its principal conductor Jukka-Pekka Saraste has honed considerably over recent years, made a warm contribution. This is a responsive ensemble, and even if the playing was not always as seamless as it might have been, the mood was always right, from a darkly meditative opening to a serene close. The strings sounded at their velvety best in the peaceful waltz of the fourth movement.

Saraste is manifestly a conductor with a feel for long-term drama, but not all of his gambles paid off here in the Usher Hall. The slow tempo he adopted proved too risky for the Edinburgh Festival Chorus. Ironically, given that this is the sort of piece which finds amateur choirs on firm ground, some of that ground



was a little too firm, too unsubtle, the hushed, sustained magic which Saraste sought in the quiet parts of the funeral march was missing. The first fugue was burdened with too much religious respectability, but things improved and towards the end Saraste galvanised his forces into realising all the contrapuntal drama.

Mattila, whose appearances in both the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra concerts are capping glorious opera performances at Edinburgh this year, made the soprano solo the emotional heart of the work.

She has a matchless way of floating rich, creamy lines, of filling a hall with her big voice yet creating a sense of intimacy. Here she lavished the same care she brings to Brahms's *Lieder* on the tender phrases.

Breaking his recent regrettable habit of cancelling Edinburgh performances, Terfel won the audience over in unfettered, heartfelt singing. With the stage presence of an old prophet and directly communicative German, he supplied the tension that had not always been achieved elsewhere.

JOHN ALLISON

## NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Impressive new young lovers

### OPERA

■ BELLINI  
I Capuleti e i Montecchi  
Mei/Kasarova/Vargas/  
Munich Radio Orch/  
R. Abbado  
RCA 09026 68899 2  
(3 CDs) \*\*\* £29.99  
RCA's version of Bellini's *Romeo* opera faces considerable competition from Muti's account on EMI. Everyone was in top form: Baltas and Gruberova as the lovers, Howell and Tomlinson as the basses, plus Muti himself breathing fire into the piece.

That was all 14 years ago. RCA scores on sound quality and on having by far the better Tebaldo in Ramon Vargas. And it generously includes on a separate disc the whole of the alternative ending composed by Vacca.

Eva Mei's Giulietta marks her out as a real Bellinian, the voice limpid and true. Her opening aria, *Oh quante volte*, carries all the palpitations of love that made it a Victorian salon favourite. Vesselina Kasarova's *Romeo* is more variable, beginning too boomily to make her a credible teenager. But the two ladies blend beguilingly together in those soprano-mezzo duets recalling *Norma*. And Kasarova shows her considerable strengths in Act II. The basses, Umberto Ciommo and Simone Alberghini, are only so-so.

Roberto Abbado, taking a more reflective approach than

### ORCHESTRAL

Muti, draws highly sophisticated sounds from his Munich players.

Not an easy choice.

JOHN HIGGINS

### VOCAL

■ SCHUMANN  
Myrten  
Banse/Bär  
EMI CDC 5 56579 2  
\*\*\* £15.99  
HERE are Juliane Banse and Olaf Bär as Clara and Robert Schumann, their voices twining one around the other in the garland of songs called *Myrten* which Schumann wrote for his fiancée, and in the set of Rückert settings they composed together to celebrate Clara's 22nd birthday in 1841.

This is inspired casting. Banse's distinctive lyric soprano, with its dusky mezzo undertones, is perfectly scaled to Bär's light baritone; both know how to "sense" the meaning of a song, and when they meet in three of the Rückert duets, the "mein und dein" of these fond ditties is perfectly recreated.

There are, in *Myrten*'s anthology of Goethe, Rückert, Heine and Burns, moments of particularly happy pairing. With Helmut Deutsch's evocative accompanying, Banse and Bär in turn seek out the bitterness of transience so typically evoked by Heine's poetry in *Was will die einsame Träne* and *Du bist wie eine Blume*; and Bär's bluff rendering of Robert Burns's *Naebody* (*Nie-mana*) bounces off the smooth surface and long lines of Banse's *In the West*.

HILARY FINCH

### ORCHESTRAL

■ BRUCKNER  
Symphonies Nos 8 & 0  
NSO of Ireland/Tinner  
Naxos 8.554215-16 (2 CDs)  
\*\*\* £9.99  
THE Austrian conductor Georg Tintner is now in his eighties but you could be forgiven for not having heard of him until recently. After leaving Vienna in 1938, he forged a career in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Canada (with a brief spell at Sadler's Wells in London), and it is only now that Naxos has given him a Bruckner cycle that he is becoming talked about in this country too.

Deservedly so, for his Bruckner series is interpretatively in the first league, even if its recorded sound quality is not. For the mighty Eighth, Tintner adopts, unusually, the 1887 version in Nowak's edition (justifying his decision in his own highly informative notes) and it may be that the "primitive spontaneity" he identifies in Bruckner's original version is partly responsible for that quality. But it is undoubtedly exacerbated by the raw sound made by the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland and the harsh, brightly lit recording.

Majestic, surely paced conducting, however, from Tintner, who also makes a strong case for the early symphony, "No 0", suppressed by Bruckner.

BARRY MILLINGTON

★ Worth hearing  
★★ Worth considering  
★★★ Worth buying

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498.

INNOCEENCE LOST William Trevor's novel

BOOKS

MUSICAL BEDS Life in an indie band

A rake's progress

Peter Ackroyd on tarnished hero Francis Drake

When the varnish of legend is scraped from the figure of Francis Drake, there is not a great deal left which is either edifying or ennobling.

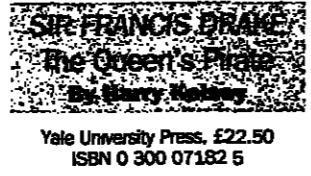
One sailor later described as a "self-willed and peremptory command". On one voyage, he promptly executed an officer who questioned his orders, and deserted another whose ship had come "under fire".

favoured. So she sent him on a voyage to South America, ostensibly to acquire "spices, drugs, cochinito" but essentially to commit as many acts of piracy against Spanish colonies and Spanish cargoes as he could muster.

the course of his voyage Drake managed "the first circumnavigation of the world by an English commander and largely English crew".



The rout of the Armada: Drake had a minor role



Yale University Press, £22.50 ISBN 0 300 07182 5

the character of Drake himself has been obscured by a thousand colourful anecdotes. On his return from the famous circumnavigation his wealth was succeeded by rank: he made the Queen a great deal of money, and she in turn made him a knight.

Gerald Kaufman on James Bond's real 'M'



Broccoli's vision was simple, but inspired: Sean Connery in Diamonds Are Forever, 1971

The name's Broccoli, Cubby Broccoli

Literature this isn't; but then, Cubby Broccoli's films never pretended to be art. Broccoli produced films for the mass market. But it was not products like Safari, Zarak or Odongo that earned this American of Italian-immigrant stock an honorary OBE and the Motion Picture Academy's Irving Thalberg Memorial Award.

percentage of the profits in favour of a cash fee. Noël Coward cabled, spurning the role of Dr No: "No... No... No... No! Thank you, love Noël".

maturity as an individual." Roger Moore "started playing up, demanding this and that," but, regrettably, "critics had been... almost counting the lines on his face".

Bonds dog ooh ah band

ics at all seriously is clearly a fool rushing in. Her lyrics for the Exes are pure fun-loving indie trash: B52s meet the Buzzcocks.

the others to earn entry to the group. And they have got to be good because Hank's ambition is to make it big. Lily, Hank's ex and the Exes' vocalist, shares his ambition, but Shaz, recruited on bass, is a lapsed Good Muslim Girl whose sexuality wavers as much as her thirst for the lime-light.

is her ex, Walt. A science genius who opted out to be a postman, Walt fits in well as the drummer.

is highly recommended. She is a mine of information on the different ways to get dumped, and on the variety of strategies available to survive the experience.

LITERATURE has made one of its occasional bounds from the books sections to the news pages in recent months with the revelations that Iain Banks and Salman Rushdie have been writing rock lyrics that will form part of their next novels.

Advertisement for 'THIS STORY THAT NEEDS NO TITLE' by Nicholas Royle, published by Simon & Schuster. The ad features a large, stylized image of a dog's face and the text '30p THE TIMES'.

Net gains from the master of loss

When you travel in William Trevor country, innocence is a dangerous possession. It cushions people against reality and makes them vulnerable. And its loss is more corrosive and terrible than death.

gent one can only watch the rush towards enlightenment with the horrified fascination of a rabbit caught in headlights.

When Pettie kidnaps the baby it seems like the worst has finally happened. But it is only the beginning of the end. There is no escape from the awfulness of the world outside the big house.

The mystery is that even moments as grim as this do not leave an aftertaste of depression; rather, a certain elevation. Perhaps this elation comes because Trevor's insight also celebrates the tenaciousness and capacities of the crooked timber of humanity; or is it simply the excitement of seeing a consummate master at work in an art he has made his own?

Advertisement for 'Reflected' by Lisa Jardine, published by Faber and Faber. The ad features a large, stylized image of a person's face and the text 'STRANGE MEETING' and 'A PROFOUNDLY CONVERSATIONAL'.

سكزا من الأهل









Second

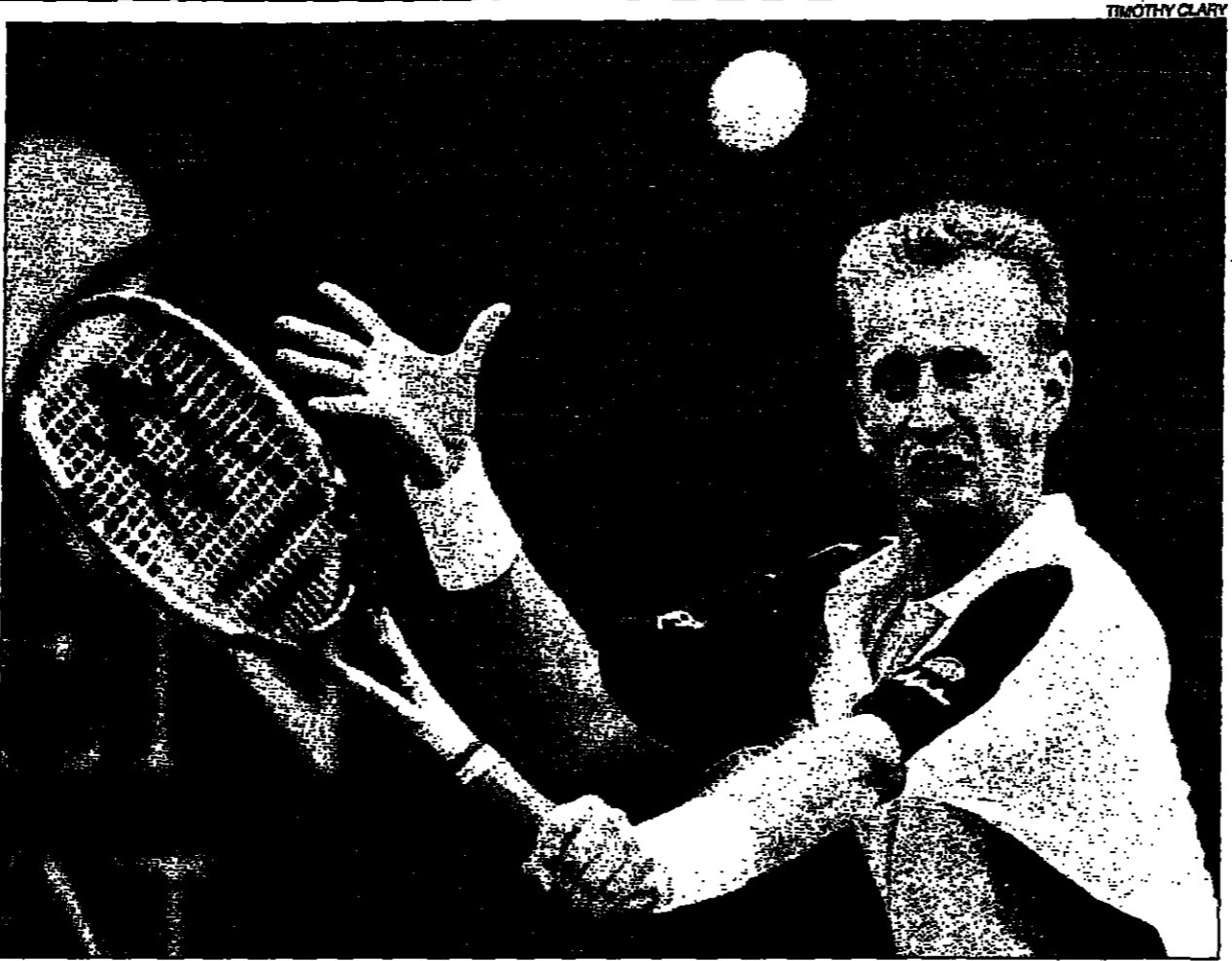
EQUESTRIANISM

Weak field gives Tait title chance

By Jenny MacArthur

IT IS difficult to look beyond Blyth Tait, the Olympic champion of New Zealand, for the winner of the Pedigree Chum Burghley Horse Trials, which start today...

ships at Thirlestane ten days ago. Aspyring's credentials are equally impressive. He won Bramham and Bockelo as a 9-year-old and a brief loss of confidence followed in 1995...



Petr Korda, the Australian Open champion, returns a backhand during his unexpected defeat by Bernd Karbacher

California dream in motion

IT WOULD appear that we are all in the wrong place. According to Richard Williams, father of the famed Venus and Serena, the US Open is being held in the wrong neighbourhood entirely...

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK Compared with all of this, Serena's serene glide into the third round of the women's singles seems small beer. She pummeled Pavlina Stoyanova 6-2, 6-1...

brushing aside Marlene Weingartner 6-0, 6-1 in 41 minutes. With so little to keep her occupied during the match, she opted to try a few new shots and experiment a little with her service.

MOTOR RACING

Coulthard under fire from Ferrari

By Kevin Eason

FERRARI set the scene yesterday for an acrimonious finish to the Formula One world championship by effectively accusing David Coulthard, of McLaren, of cheating to rob Michael Schumacher of victory in the rain-soaked Belgian Grand Prix last weekend.

SWIMMING

Palmer forced to miss Games

By Craig Lord

PAUL PALMER, the only individual medal-winner for England in the pool at the Olympic Games in 1996 and the world championships earlier this year, withdrew from the Commonwealth Games yesterday suffering from muscle fatigue syndrome.

Continued from page 41

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RACING: IRISH COLT ATTEMPTS TO MAKE AMENDS FOR CLASSIC DISAPPOINTMENTS IN MILE TEST AT LONGCHAMP

Second Empire has chance to strike back

By Chris McGrath
GIVING racehorses a second chance can be an expensive indulgence, but there must be every prospect of Second Empire striking back when he returns to Longchamp, the course where he made his name last autumn...

RICHARD EVANS

Next best: Great Dane (3.00 York)

Likely rivals include the Pearl, who broke new ground for Japan when winning the Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville last month...

Ballydoyle provides three of the 11 acceptors, though it is hard to envisage Mempari surviving any purpose other than ensuring a decent gallop for Second Empire.

The common denominator to those failures was Second Empire's reluctance to settle, but Aidan O'Brien has patiently restored him to the top of his game and there was real conviction to the way he began to salvage his reputation at the Curragh last month...

pulling too hard and the first bump probably only cost her fourth, but the second knocked her for six. She knew she had it race all right but, luckily, she had only an insignificant nick on her hind leg and has come out of it well.

One So Wonderful who won the Juddmonte International, pleased Luca Cumani in a workout yesterday, and will take her chance against the likes of Swain and Mutamam in the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown a week on Saturday.

Despite the claims of Second Empire, no horse has consumed so many column inches in defeat as Top Cees, unwelcome star of a sensational libel trial earlier this year.

Yesterday's publication of the weights for the gruelling Newmarket handicap saw him share 9-1 favouritism in the sponsor's first show with On Call.



Peradventure registers his first victory in the Mayfield Bitter & Lager Maiden Stakes at York yesterday

Table with 2 columns: Horses and odds. Includes Mytons Mistake, Lujain, Kismah.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

Table with 2 columns: Race numbers and times. Includes 103, 104, 105, 106.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

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FORM FOCUS

Horsemans: Great Dane (103) to beat Top Cees (104) in handicap at Ascot. Debra Stiller (210) to beat Top Cees (104) in handicap at Ascot.

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FORM FOCUS

Horsemans: Great Dane (103) to beat Top Cees (104) in handicap at Ascot. Debra Stiller (210) to beat Top Cees (104) in handicap at Ascot.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

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RUGBY UNION

Injuries take toll as season begins

With only three days until the start of the new season, the problems facing England's leading clubs are not confined to events off the field. Several senior players, among them Francois Pienaar and Lawrence Dallaglio, will miss the opening round of hostilities this weekend because of injury.

Pienaar, the player-coach at Saracens, has had keyhole surgery on a longstanding knee injury that flared up in training. He will miss the first game in the Allied Dunbar Premiership against Northampton on Saturday and is unlikely to be fully fit until later this month.

Jon Sleightholme, Mattie Stewart and Grant Sealey are all unfit for Northampton. Respectively, they are suffering from thigh, shoulder and knee injuries.

Of greater concern to Wasps and England is the well-being of Dallaglio, who has still not recovered from the serious shoulder injury that forced him to pull out of the England summer tour to the southern hemisphere.

Wasp's director of rugby, was unable to predict when Dallaglio might return to the fray. "All I can say is that Lawrence will miss our opening fixtures," he said.

Wasp's begin the season at the Recreation Ground, Bath, where their hosts, the European champions, will be without Matt Perry, the England full back, who has an injured wrist. He expects to return next week.

Richmond open their season in new surroundings at the Madejski Stadium, Reading, against Newcastle without Scott Quinnell, who dislocated a shoulder a month ago. The Wales back-row forward is Richmond's only casualty.

Newcastle will be without Paul van Zandvliet, the prop forward. Scotland's 100 league club land will each receive £2,000 this season, it was announced at Murrayfield yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Final move ends threat of dispute

By Peter Wilson

Final move ends threat of dispute

AN AGREEMENT between the Rugby Football League (RFL) and Superleague (SPL) has averted a potential club versus country dispute in the sport.

The agreement has agreed to bring forward the 1999 grand final by two weeks to October 9 to enable Great Britain to prepare for a tri-nation series in Australia and New Zealand.

There are also plans to restore the world club championship between the grand final winners of Britain and Australia.

Sir Rodney Walker, the RFL chairman, said yesterday: "The game has gone through a long period of uncertainty and international rugby at club or national level is crucially important."

The RFL council meeting yesterday endorsed Castleford's membership of Superleague for next season, but Hemel Hempstead's application to join the second division was deferred for another year.

Halifax Blue Sox have failed in their attempts to keep Fred Tuilagi, their popular winger. The dreadlocked Western Samoan is moving to St Helens. John Pendlebury, the Halifax coach, said the loss of Tuilagi was one of the downsides of having a successful season.

Other players become attractive to more fashionable clubs.

SPECIALISTS

Swan gives up chasing

IRISH champion jockey Charlie Swan, 30, yesterday announced his retirement from riding over fences after partnering Any Part to victory in the Rossbracken Handicap Chase at Dundalk. He will embark on a training career next season but intends to continue riding over hurdles.

He said: "I'm very sad to have had to make the decision but I am concentrating on my training." Swan, who won this year's Champion Hurdle at Aintree, has been Irish champion nine times and won the Ritz Club trophy for the leading jockey at Cheltenham in 1993 and 1994.

Swan was ranked 11th in the world in 1997.

SPECIALISTS

York

TRAINERS: D Loder, 14 winners from 32 runners; 25.9%: N Foy, 24 from 99; 24.2%: M Stoute, 57 from 238; 19.9%: M Jarvis, 3 from 18; 18.9%: L Curran, 4 from 18; 18.9%: M Brittain, 5 from 31; 16.1%: B Hendbury, 6 from 38; 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 48 winners from 215 rides; 22.3%: K Fallon, 10 from 122; 8.2%: M Jorum, 4 from 11; 3.6%: N Hills, 1 from 11; 9.1%.

SPECIALISTS

Fontwell Park

Fontwell Park, 3.10 Scani Jar, Salisbury; 2.50 Sharp Hat, Longwick, 5.20 Spire.

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SPECIALISTS

Fontwell Park

Assertive play by third-wicket pair keep Lancashire's championship hopes alive

By RICHARD HOBSON

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of four): Lancashire won toss; Lancashire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 67 runs behind Derbyshire

LANCASHIRE may yet win here and continue on towards a first outright championship title since 1934 thanks to a thrilling display of stroke-making by John Crawley and Graham Lloyd in the final session of the day.

When the pitch was exposed after the blank first day it

Bold Crawley makes up time

must have brought a glint to the eyes of the bowlers for it was emerald green in the middle and shaven at both ends.

Wastim Akram duly won the toss, asked Derbyshire to bat and everyone sat back waiting for the collapse.

Instead, Wastim conceded 17 runs in a first over featuring two no-balls and a wide that went to the boundary, and,

with the Lancashire bowlers consistently failing to put the ball in the right place, Derbyshire went on to reach 281, a total that must have been beyond their most optimistic hopes when their innings began.

Bating gradually became easier as the pitch firmed up under a warm haze and the ball softened. Matthew Cas-

sar, who survived a very hard chance to Lloyd on fourth slip before he was off the mark, scored 70 in 154 minutes with five fours and a six over mid-wicket off Keedy and Phil DeFreitas added a lusty 69 in under two hours. Although he accounted for Cork, Clarke and Blackwell with fast, full-length deliveries, Wastim suffered more frustration than most

and dropped a relatively rich run chance offered by DeFreitas. However, his demand for quick runs in reply coaxed the best from Lancashire's batsmen in what is now a three-day precursor to the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's on Saturday.

DeFreitas, against one of his former counties, bowled well

enough to deserve more than the wicket of Atherton, who chopped the ball into his stumps, while Cork generated greater pace than Wastim. However, the absence of Dear, with a knee injury, has deprived Derbyshire of effective back-up.

Fairbrother took most of the 44 runs from Blackwell's initial four-over spell and scored

48 from 31 balls before he edged Cork to Krikken. Lloyd began in his customary fashion with three boundaries and Crawley, driving elegantly through the covers off either foot, hit Roberts for a straight six immediately after reaching 50 in 107 minutes.

The third-wicket pair resume today with Crawley 214 for two and Crawley four short of his seventh century of the season. The foundation has been laid for Andrew Flint-off, awarded his Lancashire cap yesterday, to bat himself back into form.

Millns and Lewis atone for their past errors

By PAT GIBSON

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Warwickshire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 232 runs behind Leicestershire

DAVID MILLNS and Chris Lewis, who were dropped from the side last week for disciplinary reasons, made up for their transgressions yesterday by sustaining Leicestershire's challenge for the Britannic Assurance county championship with performances which left nobody in any doubt about their commitment.

Millns, a fast bowler with three first-class centuries to his name, went within one run of a fourth as Leicestershire's last two wickets put on 186 to give them maximum batting points and a total of 389.

Then Lewis, bowling for the first time in a championship match since mid-July, took Warwickshire's first four wickets, including that of Brian Lara, in an 11-over spell broken only by the tea interval.

The sight of not one but two sinners repenting must have brought great joy on a day that had not begun promisingly for Leicestershire. They had added only 13 to their overnight 190 for six when Ben Smith, who had done so much to revive the innings, fell leg-before to Ed Giddins for 86.

It was a poignant moment for both men. Smith would dearly have loved a century to show the England selectors that they were wrong not to pick him for any of the winter tours, but he was unfounded by a slower ball that turned into a yorker.

The fact that it gave Giddins his 100 wickets in all forms of cricket for Warwickshire added fuel to the even more intense debate, around Edgbaston anyway, over his omission.

Perhaps his eccentricities, which yesterday extended to wearing a scruffy old boot on his right foot and a gleaming new one on his left, had something to do with it.

In the next over, Munton had Lewis leg-before to reduce Leicestershire to 203 for eight, but any thoughts that the innings was as good as over were rapidly dispelled by Millns. Apparently the problems last week were all to do with him and Lewis being late on parade, but there was nothing wrong with his timing here as he cracked the ball to all parts.

Mullally got into the act as well, clattering Giddins for six over mid-wicket and the ninth-wicket pair had added 77 when Mullally just failed to clear Neil Smith at long leg with a hook off Brown.

Gradually Brimson grew in confidence and, with Millns enjoying himself hugely, Lara, the Warwickshire captain, seemed at a loss to know what to do about it.

The partnership was worth 109 and Brimson had completed a maiden fifty off 93 balls with seven fours when Millns, having just missed the chance of a single which would have given him his hundred, chased a wide one from Giddins and was caught behind.

His 99 had come off 207 balls with ten fours.

Then it was Lewis's turn to atone. Jack Birkenshaw, the Leicestershire manager, has been helping him to remodel his action, making it more chest-on and putting less strain on his back, which has been giving him problems, and it worked beautifully.

He had Knight and Wagb caught behind, Kemp picked up in the gully, and Lara leg-before shouldering arms.

Singh and Brown added 52 for the fifth wicket, but Simons then had Singh brilliantly caught by Lewis and Munton, the nightwatchman, taken at short leg to leave Warwickshire needing another 83 to avoid the follow-on.



Strokeless in Edgbaston: Lewis traps Lara leg-before during his vital spell of four wickets in 11 overs which put Leicestershire in a strong position

Smith and Walsh prove irresistible

By JACK BAILEY

BRISTOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire (21pts) beat Northamptonshire (4) by ten wickets

THIS has not been a couple of days that Northamptonshire will long wish to remember. It was no picnic coming up against Courtney Walsh and Mike Smith in conditions ideally suited to them, but to be bowled out twice for a total of 218 runs, with extras top scorer in both innings, more than hints at a team in disarray.

For all the fine bowling of Walsh, who took ten wickets in the match, and Smith, whose return of six for 32 in the second innings was his best of the season, a number of Northamptonshire's front-line batsmen gave up the fight all too easily. Sales and Penberthy in the first innings, Rose and Ripley in the second did at least show defiance, but

adding 54 from nine overs. Phil Wallace fell cheaply to Suresh Perera, but Matthew Mott, the Gloucestershire all-rounder, counter-attacked by scoring 43 off 31 balls before both he and Boun fell to the left-arm spin of Bandaraizale. Derek Randall and John Morris ensured that Muttiah Muralitharan failed to add to his rich haul of dismissals before rain closed in during the tea interval.

Nasser Hussain, a late withdrawal from the Getty XI, confirmed that his damaged groin was unlikely to be fully healed before the end of the series.

Sri Lanka set Wormsley alight

RAIN denied Sri Lanka a final victory after they had extended their official tour by a day to enjoy the delights of Worcester, Sir Paul Getty's private ground in the Chiltern hills. Bill Frithwell writes.

Pre-match injuries to Alistair Fraser and Matthew Fleming left David Boon, the host's captain, with only two leading bowlers and Sri-nadh Jayasuriya, with 74 from 52 balls, and Aravinda de Silva, with 80 from 58, dominated a pre-lunch score of 222 for three, a record for the ground.

After an 80-minute lunch interval, not a Wormsley record, the Sri Lankans, fielding seven of their victorious Test team, declared after

gomerie, drafted into this game at the last moment, edged one that left him to be caught at second slip. Swann fell victim to Smith's inswinger. Penberthy was caught at slip and the slide was on, with Walsh yet to make his mark. He did this soon enough by

removing Mal Loye and Kevin Curran in the course of two overs — and they only briefly — the batsmen seemed powerless against late swing and movement off a pitch which had been freshened by the drizzle.

Harry Brind, the ECB pitches consultant, was not called upon.

If this was not an ideal four-day pitch, it certainly was not one that should have produced a result in two days: less 50 overs. On the other hand, Gloucestershire certainly could not be accused of preparing a surface to suit the opposition.

Gloucestershire are still riding high, if not quite high enough to have more than vague dreams of the championship. Shrewdly and honestly led by Mark Alleyne, they make the most of their talents. Unfortunately, in this match at least, the same could not be said for Northamptonshire.

Glamorgan expose Sussex's frailties

By RUPERT COX

HOVE (third day of four): Sussex, with one second-innings wicket in hand, lead Glamorgan by 142 runs

NO SOONER had Dave Gilbert, their deputy chief executive, spoken cogently about Sussex's need to build on this year's progress, than his team crumbled compliantly towards their second successive three-day defeat. With Sussex 142 runs in credit and one wicket standing, only the intervention of persistent drizzle held up Glamorgan's march towards a fourth championship victory of the season.

Gilbert, speaking to a gathering of journalists and local businessmen in connection with next year's World Cup and the shape of Sussex cricket for 1999, told of the club's quest to sign a batsman and a spinner to bolster the squad. This season has seen a marked improvement in the club's fortunes, though there can be little doubting the lofty ambitions that the Sussex hierarchy possess.

Nonetheless, the early departure of Michael Bevan to join the Australian squad in their preparation for the Commonwealth Games, and the manner in which Sussex subsided after lunch served only to reinforce Gilbert's words. Once Chris Adams, their captain, had toe-ended a catch to second slip off Andrew Davies, in the first over after lunch, only Robin Martin-Jenkins, and the rain, detained the visitors.

Adams, who is said to be shocked by his omission from the squad for the Wills International Cup in Bangladesh, batted with a muscular authority that emphasised a gulf in class with his top-order colleagues.

Davies followed the captain's wicket by uprooting Rajesh Rao's off stump with one that kept

low, while Owen Parkin, who had worked hard for little return, had Keith Newell superbly taken by Dean Cosker, the substitute.

With a steady drizzle moving in from the west, Adrian Dale, the medium pacer, captured three wickets for one run in 16 balls before the umpires were forced to take the players off at 3.40pm. Though 44 overs were lost, Glamorgan had made steady inroads into Sussex's batting through disciplined bowling on a well-grassed pitch.

In the morning, with a deficit of 21 on first innings, Sussex had started diffidently and, with the arrears expunged, they swiftly lost Wastim Khan as he shouldered arms to Robert Croft.

The off-spinner, whose travails in three wicketless Test matches for England against South Africa have been well documented, says that this season has been the toughest of his career. When he added the wicket of Toby Peirce, as he sliced a drive to Dale at backward point, it was his twentieth of the summer.



Adams: gulf in class

Middlesex hopes are washed away

By BARNEY SPENDER

SOUTHAMPTON (third day of four): Middlesex, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 231 runs ahead of Hampshire

FOR most of this soggy season, which has brought them just two victories in the Britannic Assurance county championship, Middlesex have been more than happy to see the rain. Yesterday, however, they watched in dismay as they saw a position of dominance washed away and this match return to the melting pot.

During the 31.5 overs that were bowled, Middlesex reinforced their superiority as Philip Tuftnell quickly took the final Hampshire wicket and the batsmen then built steadily on their lead of 126. On a more clement afternoon, with Richard Kettleborough and Mike Gatting making untroubled progress against some woefully wayward bowling, Middlesex would have been away and over the mountain. However, the rain, which interrupted in the first over after lunch, ended play early and the equation has changed.

To win now, Middlesex may have to rely on some donated runs in the morning and then offer Hampshire something enticing to chase. For them to lose, though, would be a gross injustice, for they have played by far the better cricket.

It took them just 13 minutes to pick up the last Hampshire wicket. A couple of loose balls from Johnson gave extras its second half-century of the match, but Tuftnell soon tempered Peter Hartley into a drive that went like an arrow to Weekes at mid-off.

Hartley, 38, has been enjoying his time on the South Coast since being released by Yorkshire at the end of

last season. Awarded his county cap last Sunday, he has taken 62 wickets in all cricket and produced a fine ball to send Goodchild's off-stump flying a good five yards behind the crease.

Strauss made a fine 83 in the first innings, but a painful blow in the midriff from a ball by McLean, which needed a mandatory eight count, seemed to unsettle him. Shortly afterwards, he pushed at Alex Morris and edged to Aymes, the wicketkeeper.

Kettleborough, though, for the second time in the match, looked at home in the middle and eased his way to 31, adding 64 with Gatting, who survived a hard chance to Mascarenhas when he had made 12.

Tuftnell's omission from the England tour party for the Ashes this winter has met with surprise in Australia. Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, said that he had expected Tuftnell to be in the squad. Peter Such and Robert Croft have been preferred to the Middlesex left-arm bowler.

"There are no real surprises, not that I know a lot about the two spinners," Marsh said. "I know our guys rate Tuftnell pretty highly on the Test scene, but Croft bowled well for them in the West Indies and has bowled well for them at other times."

Marsh said he also thought that Andrew Caddick, the Somerset seam bowler, might have been included in the squad. "I guess the only surprise is we thought Caddick might come out, but really they've rewarded guys for doing well throughout the summer," Marsh also said that Shane Warne was increasingly confident of recovering from shoulder surgery in time to play in the series.

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs behind Worcestershire

IF THERE were to be a search carried out for a player who best characterises Worcestershire man, Gavin Haynes would be as good a bet as any.

Another in an apparently endless line of unassuming and underrated bits-and-pieces all-rounders emanating from New Road, if he is not making valuable runs when the chips are down, he is the sort of bowler who nags away with his bustling medium-pace bowling. In this match, he has done both.

An enervating half-century, made in large part against a rampant Andrew Caddick on Tuesday, kept Worcestershire's heads above water. A clutch of wickets yesterday ensured that it is they who are now dictating terms.

Hustling his way through the Somerset top order, Haynes added three wickets to the one that he had taken the previous evening, reducing Somerset to 135 for six, still 89 runs in arrears on first innings, before persistent drizzle kept the players from the field after lunch.

Certainly, he did not look like a player who only recently had been forced to sit out six Britannic Assurance county championship matches through injury. Weather permitting, he is well placed to improve today on career-best bowling figures for the second time this season.

As well as Haynes bowled, however, each of his victims yesterday was guilty of throwing his wicket away. Whether this was a sign of overconfidence against the bowling or lack of confidence in the playing surface at

Persistent Haynes tilts the balance

By THRASY PETROPOULOS

TAUNTON (second day of four): Somerset, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs behind Worcestershire

TAUNTON, where ball has dominated but for much of the season, is a moot point.

Adrian Pierson, the nightwatchman, set the tone before driving to the overnight total of 33. Driving loudly at Haynes, he could only nudge a catch to Weston in the gully. Peter Bowler was similarly slack with his footwork, this time edging to Stuart Lampitt at third slip.

Lampitt is, of course, another in the battalion of Worcestershire medium-pacers. Briefly, Marcus Trescothick had the better of him, driving handsomely through the covers on more than one occasion, before he too fended at a ball angled across him, deflecting a catch to Vikram Solanki.

The biggest disappointment have been the shot played by Richard Harden. Lead-footed, he no more than patted the ball towards the slips, where Graeme Hick took the catch at the second attempt. Bobby Chapman completed the morning's work for Worcestershire by pinning Parsons leg-before.

SOMERSET v WORCESTERSHIRE (second day of four): Somerset, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs behind Worcestershire

SOMERSET: First Innings: A R N Pierson c Weston b Haynes 6; P E Holloway c Haynes 6; M P Rescorla c Solanki b Lampitt 29; P D Bowler c Lampitt b Haynes 4; R J Harden c Hick b Haynes 22; K A Parsons leg b Chapman 24; M Burre not out 14; T J Turner not out 4; Extras (9, 4, 10, 8, 10) 46; Total (6 wickets, 48 overs) 135; G D Rose, A R Caddick and P S Jones to bat; FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-33, 3-41, 4-78, 5-115, 6-115.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings: H V Knight c Moon b Lewis 5; M A Walsh c Smith b Lewis 5; D L Hemp c Smith b Lewis 5; K Lewis not out 32; A Singh c Lewis b Simons 29; D R Brown not out 24; A I Walton b Dale 25; Extras (8, 2, 10, 25) 50; Total (6 wickets, 48 overs) 187; G D Rose, A R Caddick and P S Jones to bat; FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-13, 3-70, 4-87, 5-148, 6-157.

BOWLING: Millns 13-1-55-0; Lewis 11-1-50-4; Munton 7-1-22-0; Wells 3-1-10-0; Simons 3-2-13-0; Simmons 4-1-4-2. Bonus points: Warwick 4; C. B. Burrows, G. Stamp and J. D. Lloyd.

SUSSEX v GLAMORGAN (second day of four): Sussex, with one second-innings wicket in hand, are 142 runs ahead of Glamorgan

SUSSEX: First Innings: M P Maynard 69; R S C Martin-Jenkins 78; R R Ho 70; S D Thomas 4; R G (3)

Second Innings: M T E Peirce c Dale b Croft 11; W G Khan b Croft 9; S J Aisopou c Dale b Croft 20; C J Adams c sub b Davies 47; R K Rao b Davies 8; K Newell c sub b Davies 11; R S C Martin-Jenkins b Dale 30; R J Kinley leg b Dale 11; A I Walton b Dale 25; M A Robinson not out 2; T J D Lewis not out 2; Extras (9, 2, 10) 13; Total (6 wickets, 48 overs) 185.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-31, 3-43, 4-39, 5-110, 6-177, 7-203, 8-203, 9-280.

BOWLING: Giddins 30-4-124-3; Brown 20-1-125-0; Munton 21-4-99-4; Giles 18-5-25-0; Smith 8-2-16-0.

SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assc Ch'ship

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams like Hampshire v Middlesex and Lancashire v Derbyshire.

Lancashire v Derbyshire

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Lancashire and Derbyshire.

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Lancashire v Derbyshire

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Lancashire and Derbyshire.

Glos v Northants

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire.

Glos v Northants

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire.

Glos v Northants

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire.

Warwick v Leics

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

Warwick v Leics

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

Warwick v Leics

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

Somerset v Worcs

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Somerset and Worcestershire.

Somerset v Worcs

Table with columns for Innings, Batsmen, Runs, and Extras. Includes teams Somerset and Worcestershire.

CRICKET

White opens up trouble for Surrey

By IVO TENNANT
HEADINGLEY (second day of four, Surrey won toss): Surrey, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 233 runs behind Yorkshire...

SCOREBOARD

Table showing cricket scores for Yorkshire and Surrey, including batsmen, bowlers, and totals.

cut for Sri Lanka at the Oval. It was green enough for Bicknell to beat the bat two, sometimes three times an over...



Key, the England Under-19 opener, is bowled by Irfan at Chelmsford yesterday

Pakistan seize initiative

By JOHN STERN
The England innings began adequately enough, with Robert Key, who has scored 377 runs at 62 in the series, looking confident. Ian Flanagan, his partner, was the first to go when he steered Kashif Raza to guily.

SCOREBOARD

Table showing cricket scores for England and Pakistan, including batsmen, bowlers, and totals.

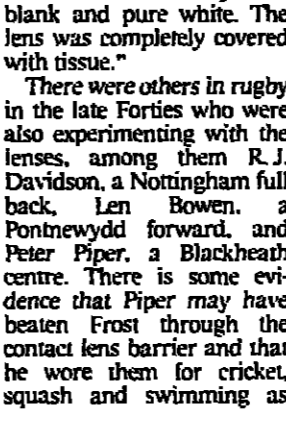
Contact sports move into sharper focus

All sportsmen are not created equal. Some can see better than others and, long before performance-enhancing drugs became all too routine, sportsmen were experimenting with performance-enhancing visual aids.



'The pioneering lens-wearers in football included Nobby Stiles'

Frost remembers playing during his National Service days against a hooker who took to the field in spectacles. Pioneering lens-wearers in football included Nobby Stiles, of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team.



Mitchell: well framed

FOR THE RECORD

Football: Whitley lost to Mander 4 and 3. Yorkshire B Division 1. Farnborough (Promoted).
Tennis: NEW YORK US Open: Men's First Round: M. Prinoske (USA) vs. R. Pietrangeli (ITA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

IN BRIEF

Abernethy outplays his idol: SNOOKER: Hugh Abernethy, the world No 152, produced the upset of the season so far by beating Jimmy White 5-3 in the final qualifying round of the Thailand Masters at Plymouth yesterday.
Rugby Union: Chris Sheasby, the Harlequins No 8, will lead the England seven's squad in the Commonwealth Games.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
The British Bridge League is the body responsible for selecting and financing British teams for international events. The home countries' bridge unions contribute to the finances, but much the majority of the money is raised directly by the BBL. This hand is from one of the BBL's fund-raising events, the Summer Simultaneous Pairs, played at the end of July in bridge clubs all over Britain.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Karpov's disaster: Today I give a further loss by Fide world champion Anatoly Karpov from his catastrophic performance in the tournament at Polanica Zdroj.
White: Sergei Rublevsky. Black: Anatoly Karpov.
Caro-Kann Defence: 1 e4 c6 2 d4 g6 3 Nf3 Bg7 4 Bc4 d5 5 Bb5 Bc7 6 dxc5 Bxc6 7 Nbd2 Nc6 8 Bb3 Bg4 9 h3 h5 10 g4 Nf6 11 Bxh5 Nxh5 12 Ng5 Nf7 13 Bxf7 Bxf7 14 Nc3 Bc6 15 Qd2 Qd7 16 Nf3 Qd6 17 Bg5 Qe7 18 Qe2 Qe6 19 Qd3 Qe7 20 Qd2 Qe6 21 Qd3 Qe7 22 Qd2 Qe6 23 Qd3 Qe7 24 Qd2 Qe6 25 Qd3 Qe7 26 Qd2 Qe6 27 Qd3 Qe7 28 Qd2 Qe6 29 Qd3 Qe7 30 Qd2 Qe6 31 Qd3 Qe7 32 Qd2 Qe6 33 Qd3 Qe7 34 Qd2 Qe6 35 Qd3 Qe7 36 Qd2 Qe6 37 Qd3 Qe7 38 Qd2 Qe6 39 Qd3 Qe7 40 Qd2 Qe6 41 Qd3 Qe7 42 Qd2 Qe6 43 Qd3 Qe7 44 Qd2 Qe6





Championship leaders forced to endure day of toil

SPORT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3 1998

Montgomerie battles to overcome unfamiliar demons



Outstanding display earns second-round meeting with Mantilla
Henman on cruise control

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

THE first week of a grand-slam tournament is all about survival, but Tim Henman accomplished far more in his efficient defeat of Scott Draper at the US Open at Flushing Meadows yesterday.

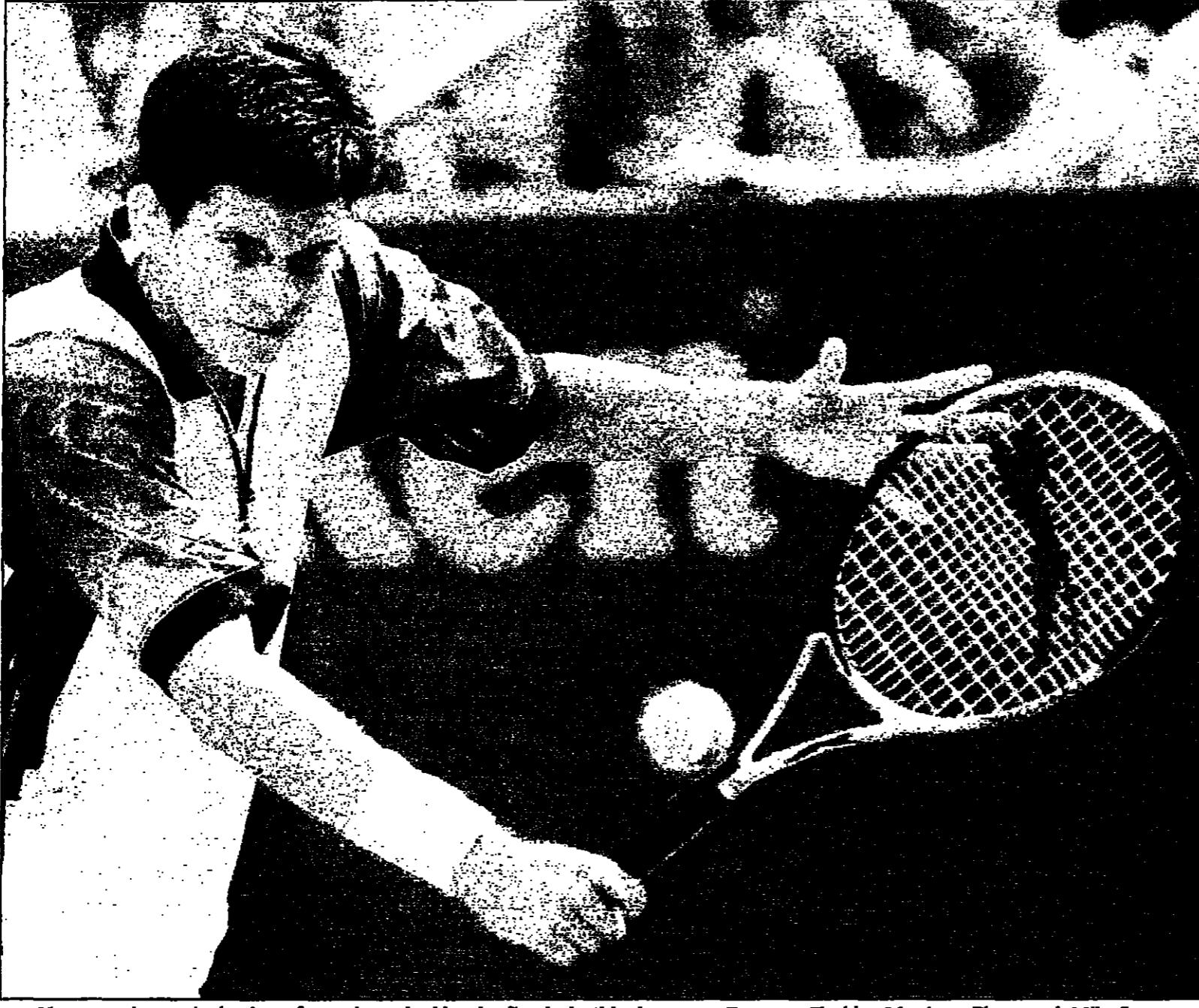
Henman enjoyed no more than a strenuous workout and breezed through 6-3, 7-6, 7-6. It was a thoroughly convincing performance from the Brit-on. Although Draper lacks any really potent weapons, he can run riot if given an inch. He briefly threatened in the middle of the match, when Henman, through his only lapse in concentration, was obliged to reel a couple of set points. He took the second set into a tie-break and won it comfortably - despite some haunting memories of the last tie-break he had played.

That came against Richard Krajicek in the quarter-finals at New Haven last month, where Henman held eight match points but still lost. This time, however, the drama was limited. Henman seizing the initiative courtesy of a net-cord at set-point to claim the second set.

That wobble aside, Henman, seeded No 13, carried too much artillery for an Australian who was dubbed the new Rod Laver in his youth. "Those are the times when things can suddenly swing around," Henman said of the two set points he saved. "You are into a dogfight if it goes to one set-all, so I was pleased to avoid that."

Henman's display was all the more impressive for the scene of his triumph. Played on Stadium Court Three, with its unsewered entrances and catering gangway parallel to the tramlines, the match was repeatedly interrupted by crashing trolleys and spectators late for their seats. Such an atmosphere might once have fractured Henman's concentration; instead he shut out the distractions to keep Draper very much at arm's length.

Draper was at his most profligate early in the match and Henman promptly capitalised. The Briton's first service,



Henman, who was in dominant form, plays a backhand volley during his victory over Draper at Flushing Meadows. Photograph Mike Segar

now a match for all but the heaviest, appears to have found a consistency that was elusive during his winter slump. To his power Henman has now added variety, and his high-kicking second service bailed him out when he confronted those set points, its flight deceiving Draper into tame errors. Henman will also recognise

that he can improve considerably on this showing. His chip-and-charge tactics often foundered when he rushed the chip, but Draper, himself struggling for consistency on his service, could never effectively counter Henman's weight of shot. Henman next plays Felix Mantilla, of Spain, who yesterday overcame Brett Steven, of New Zealand, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5. On the only previous occasion they have met, Henman beat Mantilla indoors in Vienna ten months ago.

Further encouragement for Henman's assault on this title arrived when Petr Korda, seeded

No 4 and a projected fourth-round opponent, was beaten by Bernd Karbacher, a qualifier from Germany. Korda could offer no explanation for his capitulation after he ran away with the first set.

Korda said that he felt mentally tired, despite feeling fresh at the start of the match. A more plausible explanation is that Korda, who thrives on family life, has not seen his five-week-old daughter for four weeks. His wife and first child are in Florida, where Korda, 30, will retreat before deciding whether to play full-time next year. His tame exit

was all the more disappointing for his exploits here 12 months ago, when he eliminated Pete Sampras in the fourth round. The Czech was joined on the casualty list by a pair of clay-court specialists, Alberto Bertrasegui and Albert Costa.

Marcelo Rios, seeded No 2, has suffered a miserable summer, which culminated last month in him dismissing his coach, Larry Stefanki. Among Rios's poor recent returns was a first-round defeat in Cincinnati by Daniel Vacek.

Rios resumed normal service here yesterday. The Chilean demolished the hapless

Vacek 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 to set up a second-round match with Giorgio Galimberti. Vacek's misery was such that he double-faulted on match point.

David Lloyd, the Great Britain Davis Cup captain, has included Miles Maclagan among his squad for the crucial tie against India at Nottingham later this month. It is due reward for his victory in the Bronx Challenger event here last month. Maclagan joins Henman, Greg Rusedski, Chris Wilkinson and Mark Broad.

California dream, page 42

Cross-border clashes set to rise above official bar

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE unauthorised games involving England's top 14 clubs and Cardiff and Swansea, the two breakaway Welsh clubs, seem set to begin on Saturday, despite the refusal by two governing bodies to supply match officials. The clubs are confident that they will be able to employ referees of appropriate standing, a belief strengthened by the resignation of the Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees of Peter Bolland, a premier-grade official.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) management board will meet today to determine its policy should no compromise be found to the situation. The Welsh Rugby Union's (WRU) general committee will also be in session, with the added problem imposed by Cardiff's selection of Robert Howley, the Wales scrum half and captain, to play against Bedford at Goldington Road.

A week ago, the WRU threatened Howley with fire and brimstone if he played for his club against Sale last Friday. Howley withdrew on fitness grounds from the national seven squad, due to play in the Commonwealth Games later this month, and WRU regulations stipulate that no one should play again until ten days after that event; yet, rather than determine sanctions against the player or either rebel club, the Welsh union will turn the problem over to the committee of five nations.

That committee, with added representation from Italy, is to meet at a Heathrow hotel on Monday and the WRU said in a statement: "It is within the framework of a united European front that all the issues that now bedevil our game should be thrashed out so that players, clubs and unions alike know exactly what is, and what is not, acceptable."

Under normal circumstances, the RFU would supply match officials for leading English games, as would its counterpart in Wales, but neither will sanction the Bedford match, nor that between Swansea and West Hartlepool, on Saturday, and have withdrawn the insurance cover

that would normally operate within the professional game, leaving the clubs involved to arrange both aspects, without which the fixtures cannot go ahead.

Doug Ash, the chief executive of the English Rugby Partnership, the body responsible for the day-to-day running of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, said that appropriate insurance cover is in place for players and officials. "The referees were never a problem," he added. "All I have tried to do is fit in with Cardiff and Swansea. I am confident we will have referees."

The fact of Bolland's resignation, together with a meeting organised last night between Cardiff, Swansea and six disaffected referees, adds strength to Ash's case. Though the RFU says that no English officials will be permitted to handle unauthorised matches, recently retired or demoted officials are

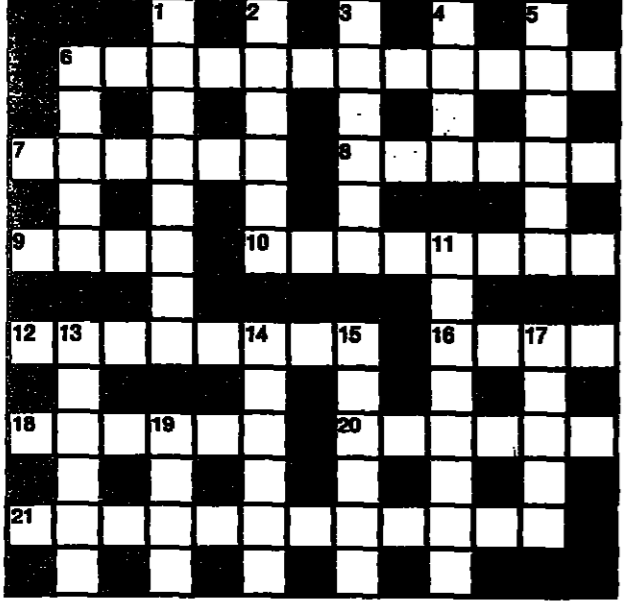
Casualty, page 43

certain to be approached and that category would include recent international panel referees such as Tony Spreadbury, of Somerset, and John Pearson, of Durham. Terry Burwell, director of Twickenham Services, acknowledged the squeeze being applied to the RFU by its own clubs, on the one hand, and the International Rugby Board (IRB) on the other. "We are not able, under IRB regulations, to sanction these matches," Burwell said.

"If the Welsh position changes, then ours would, too. This is the introduction of a quasi-competition and it would be only a matter of time before it became integrated into a competition which would prejudice the integrity of the Premiership."

Burwell believes the clubs' stance breaches competition regulations and the Mayfair Agreement drawn up between the RFU and the clubs last May. "We negotiated a position for 14 clubs, not 16, which would raise queries from our second-division clubs," he said.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1501

- ACROSS
6 Gardening skill (5,7)
7 Obvious right to exploit in vention (6)
8 Flashes of light; ship's radio officer (6)
9 One Zeus visited as swan (4)
10 Billboard; saving (8)
12 Transfer, surrender (4,4)
16 Eg crocus bulb (4)
18 Storage compartment (6)
20 In unfeeling way (6)
21 Feeble, insipid (behav iour) (4-3-5)

- DOWN
1 Ely outlaw, v Conqueror (8)
2 Grab quickly (6)
3 Spanish carnival (6)
4 Taj Mahal site (4)
5 Smashed; discontinuous (6)
6 Elegance; clemency (5)
11 Reduce by a tenth (8)
13 In fear (6)
14 Romeo & Juliet city (6)
15 Fame (6)
17 Governor (5)
19 Ship's track; funeral vigil (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1500
ACROSS: 1 Manana 5 Opened 8 Posh 9 Ave Maria 10 Vouchers 12 Antil 13 Usable 15 Pierce 17 Sago 19 Turncoat 21 Motivate 23 Iraq 24 Made up 25 Exeter
DOWN: 2 Amoroso 3 Ad hoc 4 Amazement 5 Ode 6 Emanate 7 Edict 11 Supersede 14 Bromide 16 Chardae 18 Aroma 20 Chime 22 Amp

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Hoddle remains unmoved by Adams's honest advice

By MATT DICKINSON

IT WOULD have been nice yesterday if Glenn Hoddle had admitted, just for once, that he had listened to his critics. Not, obviously, the battalion of media detractors whom he dismisses with such scorn, but to a critic who really mattered. Namely, Tony Adams, owner of 55 England caps.

As the pair sat together, however, and insisted that they were united behind England and St George, there was once more the disarming feeling that Hoddle remains impervious to advice, even when it comes from a man who, more than most, deserves to be heard.

The England coach, it seems, is not for turning or for listening as he prepares his team for the opening European championship qualifying match in Sweden.

While Adams did Hoddle a huge favour yesterday in talking about the "great guy" sat by his side, his written dissertation of some of the coach's flaws has turned whispers of discontent among some players into fact.

They were allegations, particularly those of treating players like children, that deserved an explanation even if, as Adams claimed, they had been sensationalised from his book. Asked several times yesterday, though, whether he had taken on board Adams's forthright comments, Hoddle replied that "Tony would not have known half the situation. It is his just his opinion as a player."

"If I was going around worrying what players were thinking, I wouldn't be doing my job," he added later - and not once was there an acknowl-

edgement that Adams's analysis had been absorbed. One hopes that Hoddle has been more receptive in private because, despite the Football Association's desperation to get him to extend his contract to 2002, he remains on trial as an international coach - including with his own players, who feel distanced by his regime, despite Hoddle's claim yesterday that all is calm within the confines of Bisham Abbey.

"We have seen these sort of things crop up time and time again, but we just get on with life and work," he said. "A lot of people are just jumping on the negative."

Adams has been equally dismayed at the tone of the serialisation of Addicted, a thoroughly honest account of how he smashed down hotel doors, frequently urinated in his bed and turned up as drunk for

some matches as some players leave them. That, he said, is the real message of the book, rather than how Hoddle humiliated David Beckham in training.

"This is about my disease," he said. "Two years ago, I was dead. I didn't play football ever again. I wouldn't have been here today. I was drinking for fun."

"I had good reason to do it [the serialisation] with The Sun and that was for the readership. When I used to drink down the pub, they had The Sun on the counter. I was there with my pint of lager. If the people see my book and I sober one person up, I have won."

Honest and heartfelt motives, indeed, but it was naive of Adams if he did not realise that his criticisms of Hoddle would make the headlines and the rather contrived exercise of

BRIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Hoddle and Adams presenting a united front yesterday

Clarke on move, page 46

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